

THE
ANALECTIC MAGAZINE.

(NEW SERIES.)

COMPRISING ORIGINAL REVIEWS, BIOGRAPHY, ANALYTICAL AB-
STRACTS OF NEW PUBLICATIONS, TRANSLATIONS FROM FRENCH
JOURNALS, AND SELECTIONS FROM THE MOST ESTEEMED BRITISH
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ART. I.—*Memoirs of the Mexican Revolution; including a Narrative of the Expedition of general Xavier Mina, &c. &c.* By W. S. Robinson. Philadelphia, 1820.

THE principal part of this work, that which relates to the operations of the unfortunate *Mina*, is compiled from the narrative of Mr. Brush, who accompanied that officer in his expedition. We have entire confidence in the truth of the relation. Mr. Robinson certainly expresses himself with great bitterness against the officers of the royal government of Spain, and therefore cannot be considered a perfectly impartial historian, but the treatment received by him from the Spanish authorities, may well account for and excuse a strong feeling of indignation and abhorrence, and his dislike seems to be accompanied with no unfairness, but to arise from the honest consciousness of having been most undeservedly and barbarously injured.

We shall at present, confine our attention to the story of the romantic *Mina*, who devoted himself to the cause of liberty with a generous zeal similar in many particulars to that of La Fayette, but with so different a fate. He perished a martyr to freedom, after performing exploits that might have illustrated a long life, at the early age of twenty-seven.

We abstract from Mr. Robinson's book, the following account of his adventurous and ill-starred career.

' Don Xavier Mina, was born in the month of December, 1789. He was the eldest son of a well-born and respected proprietary, whose domains lay near the town of Monreal, in the kingdom of Navarre.

' His early studies were pursued at Pampeluna and at Saragossa. In 1808, at the commencement of the resistance of the Spanish to the French invasion, he was a student in the university of Saragossa. At that period, between eighteen and nineteen years of age, he felt the strong enthusiasm of the times. He abandoned his studies, joined the army of the north of Spain, as a volunteer, and was present at the battles of Alcornes, Maria, and Belchite.

' The Spanish armies, were unable to cope with the numerous and veteran troops with which Napoleon overspread the country, and, being defeated in every regular encounter, they retreated before the French.

' It was in this gloomy situation of affairs, that Xavier Mina formed a determination, which had the most important effects, not only upon his own fortune in life, but upon the whole war in Spain. He resolved to pass through the line of the French position, and, gaining his native province of Navarre, to make its mountains and fastnesses the theatre of his hostile operations; to hang on the rear of the invaders, to intercept their convoys and couriers, and to cut off their straggling detachments.

' In an evening walk he first communicated, to a friend and kinsman, his plans and schemes; and unfolded, with enthusiasm, his hopes, and fears, and visions of glory. His kinsman heard him to the end in silence, and then pointing to a gibbet which stood near, "If you succeed, it will be great: if you fail, there is your portion," was his reply. In answer to his solicitation to be permitted to put his plans in execution, the Spanish general told him it would only be throwing away

his life, as he would be cut off from the army; "*I do not,*" said Mina, "*think I am cut off, so long as I can find a path for my horse.*" Finally, he left Tortosa with *twelve men*, and, passing with skill through the line occupied by the French army, arrived in Navarre. Of those twelve, one is at present a lieutenant; another has retired with nine wounds; and the rest fell in battle.

'The first attempt of Mina was upon a small guard of a dozen French. He attacked them with about twenty men, and captured them without much resistance. The next, was on a party of thirty men. The Spaniards, who had nearly the same number, lay concealed behind a stone wall; upon the approach of the enemy, they rose and fired. In the contest which ensued, a tall grenadier fired at Mina with deliberate aim, and, taking shelter behind a tree, encouraged his party. But the Spaniards, leaping the wall, rushed on, and settled the combat with their sabres. This successful beginning produced the most important results. The spirits of the peasantry were roused; many successful adventures took place; the French foraging parties were cut to pieces; their convoys attacked and plundered; and their couriers intercepted. The Spanish government had scarcely finished their rejoicing for the first successes of Mina, when they were again surprised by his sending them a large body of prisoners, among whom was a lieutenant colonel; and, at another time, *seven hundred* prisoners, with a quantity of military equipments, stores, and money.

'The French were not passive spectators of these chivalrous exploits. Upwards of thirty individuals, nearly or remotely connected with Mina's family, were suddenly arrested, and sent into France. War, with all the meliorations introduced by modern civilization, is sufficiently terrible to a reflecting mind; but it is in those political struggles, where the relations and kindred of an individual, are made answerable for his opinions and acts, that it comes armed with its

severest afflictions. Among the relatives of Mina, thus torn from their country, was an accomplished young lady, the object of his early attachment. Separated from each other, time, and the waves of an adverse fortune, bore them still farther asunder, and the tender affections, the sport of events, sunk, and were lost for ever.

‘Repeated expeditions were undertaken to destroy Mina, but the affections of every peasant being with him, and having correct intelligence of every movement, he was enabled, not only to baffle and elude his enemy, but frequently coming on them by surprise, to defeat and destroy his pursuers. When he found their forces too numerous to be openly resisted, he appointed a place of rendezvous, dispersed his band, and, separating from each other, they eluded pursuit. The armed mountaineers retired to their homes, or to secret recesses, and there waited till their leader gave the signal; when, suddenly re-appearing, they seemed to spring from the earth, like the men of Cadmus, a legion of soldiers. Mina, with a select band, the nucleus of his army, retired to the mountains. A hill, near his father's mansion, was his principal retreat. He was familiar with its fastnesses, and solitary recesses, and the neglected flocks of his own family, furnished him and his brave companions with food. When he determined on striking a blow, he gathered his forces like a tempest on the mountain top, and, descending in terror, swept the province to the very gates of Pampeluna.

‘In this manner was begun the insurrection in the province of Navarre. From this period, bands of guerillas were organized throughout the country. Thus commenced that system, which was the great means of keeping up the spirit of desperate animosity, and which became, eventually, the principal means of delivering Spain from her invaders. The accounts of Mina's successes ran through the country, and produced a powerful excitement in the minds of the people. He was thence soon enabled to raise a respectable division of

troops, whose numbers were increased by the peasantry, whenever it was contemplated to strike a blow.

‘The central junta of Seville conferred on him the rank of colonel, and, soon after, the dignity of commandant general of Navarre. The junta of Arragon also appointed him commanding general of upper Arragon. He won these honours most gallantly by his sword, in a gloomy and desperate hour; they were confirmed to him by his country; and he continued his brilliant career, lighting up an hostility and daring resistance, which has made the French invasion of Spain one of the most remarkable events in the history of modern Europe.

‘In the winter of 1810—11, Mina was directed by the Spanish government to destroy, if possible, an iron foundry near Pampeluna, from which the French were supplied with a number of articles for the service of the war. Whether it was from one of those accidents which no prudence can foresee, or that the enemy had obtained information of his movements, this unfortunate enterprise was fatal to Mina. Two strong bodies of French troops, on their march in contrary directions, arrived at the same time at the two entrances of a narrow valley. Mina and his corps, who were then in the defile, were completely enclosed. The fight that ensued was obstinate and bloody. The gallant Mina, defending himself with his sword, fell, pierced with wounds, a prisoner, into the hands of the enemy.

‘Mina was taken to Paris, after his capture, and shut up in the castle of Vincennes. The afflictions, which press upon the unfortunate state prisoner, were aggravated to him, by the care with which all intelligence of the fate of his relations, or struggling country, was concealed from him. His hair came out, and his person was completely changed. In time, however, the rigours of his imprisonment were softened, and books were given him. He applied himself, with great industry, to the study of the military art, in which he derived

great assistance from some of the veteran officers, who were his fellow-prisoners. He remained in Vincennes till the allied armies entered France, nor was he set at liberty until the general peace, which took place upon the abdication of the emperor Napoleon.

‘ Being conspicuous members of the party of *Liberales*, or *Constitutionalists*, the two Minas soon experienced the displeasure of the court, and the frowns of the king. Xavier, however, was offered the command of the military forces in Mexico, a situation next to that of the viceroy of New Spain. He declined it; and, being apprehensive of the consequences, retired into Navarre. Espoz y Mina, who still remained at the head of his mountain warriors in Navarre, immediately received an order, depriving him of his command. Matters being thus brought to a crisis, it was determined by the two Minas to raise the standard of the Cortes and the constitution. They had no time to form any extensive plan. It was agreed to strike immediately, before the order depriving Espoz of his command should be publicly known. The details of this bold attempt are interesting, and present some features of romance; but we can only glance slightly at them. While Espoz was to put his troops in motion, that he might arrive, at a concerted hour, under the walls of Pampeluna, Xavier Mina entered the fortress. There, he soon communicated with a few officers, who were known to him, and whose sentiments were favourable to the Cortes. Popular in the whole Spanish army, and his name endeared to those soldiers of freedom, he selected a few of them to be his guests at a convivial banquet. After supper, as the time drew nigh, Mina rose up suddenly amidst them; addressed them in a nervous and enthusiastic harangue; unfolded the ingratitude and injustice of the court; and, finally, exhorted them to give the blessings of freedom to the country they had saved. The effect was electric and complete. They arose, and crossing their swords, as they stood around the banqueting table,

swore to be faithful. The sentinels on the appointed bastion were withdrawn; the ladders were fixed; and, from the dead of night, almost till the dawn, they waited, with breathless anxiety, the approach of the troops under Espoz y Mina. Had they then arrived, a new era, pregnant with important events, would have opened on Spain.

‘ The causes which led to the failure of the enterprise were partly accidental, and implicate the policy, not the bravery, of Espoz. It is now understood, that the troops, instead of being excited and stimulated for such an occasion, by his orders were rigidly kept from liquor and refreshment. They were altogether ignorant of the reason and nature of an expedition, so strange to them, in time of peace; and, after marching till a late hour in the night, they began to murmur; some confusion arose in a corps whose commander was unpopular; the march was delayed; a nocturnal tumult ensued; and the soldiers lay down in scattered parties in the fields, or wandered in search of refreshments. Espoz, who had rode on ahead, found, on his return, in the darkness of the night, a scene of confusion, to remedy which, all his exertions were baffled. It was irremediable, and the opportunity was lost. The confederates in Pampeluna speedily received the fatal intelligence, and immediately quitted the fortress.

‘ Although the Spaniards are accustomed to obedience, and “the king’s name is a tower of strength,” yet, on this occasion, they scorned to do any injury to their generals. Xavier Mina traversed the whole province in safety, collected all those friends whom he thought might be compromitted by his attempt, and entered France in full uniform, with thirty officers. He was arrested by the orders of the French government, and imprisoned near Bayonne, but was afterwards liberated, and passed over to England. From the British government he received a liberal pension; we believe, two thousand pounds sterling per annum.

‘ During his sojourn in England, he was treated by several eminent personages with flattering attentions; but particularly by an English nobleman, alike distinguished for his attachment to the cause of freedom throughout the world, and his urbanity to strangers. By this nobleman, Mina was made acquainted with general Scott, of the army of the United States, then on a visit to England. He was also furnished with a ship, arms, and military stores, by some English gentlemen attached to the cause of freedom, to enable him to prosecute an enterprise he had been some time meditating, against the kingdom of Mexico, as the quarter whence the most severe blow could be struck against the tyranny of Ferdinand.

‘ General Mina had originally intended, and made his arrangements to proceed direct to the Mexican coast, conceiving that the inhabitants generally would rise in his favour; but, altering his plan a short time prior to his departure, in consequence of a part of his plans in Europe being frustrated, and some information that he received from a respectable source, he sailed from England, for the Chesapeake, in the month of May, 1816, accompanied by thirteen Spanish and Italian, and two English officers.

‘ After a passage of forty-six days, the ship arrived in Hampton Roads. The general disembarked at Norfolk, whence he proceeded by land to Baltimore, at which city the ship arrived on the 3d of July. Mina here made an arrangement for a fast sailing brig, pierced for guns; and purchased a quantity of field and battering artillery, mortars, ammunition, clothing, and military stores of every description. While these preparations were making, the ship was put in a state for the accommodation of passengers; and the general visited Philadelphia and New York, where several Americans and Europeans volunteered their services, as officers, to accompany him. He was not desirous of augmenting his force, except as to officers, being under the impression, as before

remarked, that he would be joined by the natives, on landing in Mexico. He obtained every possible information of the state of things in that country; and ascertained that a small place on the Mexican coast, to the northward of Vera Cruz, called *Boquilla de Piedras*, was fortified, and still held by the patriot general *Don Guadalupe Victoria*. He also learned, that, although the patriots had met with recent disasters, yet they still maintained several strong guerilla parties in the different provinces.

‘A quantity of military stores were put on board the ship, as cargo; and the passengers, destined to embark in her, being in readiness, she took from the custom house a clearance for St. Thomas, and proceeded outside of fort M’Henry, where she anchored: but it was not without some difficulty that the British consul was induced, even then, to relinquish his hold on the papers.

‘On the evening of the 28th of August, the passengers, in number about two hundred, embarked, under the direction of colonel the count de Ruuth. Mina remained to go out in the brig, whose cargo was not quite ready. The ship was ordered to proceed to Port au Prince, there to await the arrival of the general.

‘The ship left the capes of Virginia, on the 1st of September, in company with a Spanish schooner, which had been hired by Mina, and on board of which was lieutenant colonel Myers, of the artillery, with his company; but, a night or two after sailing, this vessel separated from the ship, and proceeded to the rendezvous.

‘After a passage of seventeen days, the ship arrived at Port au Prince, where she found her consort the schooner. The following night, the island was visited by one of those destructive hurricanes common to the West Indies. Amid the scene of general havoc, the ship sustained her portion of damage. She parted one of her cables, drove with another ahead, and got foul of a Haytian frigate, of thirty-two guns;

in consequence of which, the foremast, maintopmast, and several spars, were carried away, besides considerable injury sustained in the hull; and the frigate lost her three masts by the board. The ship, however, hooking the frigate's moorings, held on; and, about three o'clock, the gale abated. Day light offered to view the melancholy scene of the ship dismasted, and the schooner, her consort, upset and grounded on a shoal.

'The storm having abated, the passengers were landed in the course of the forenoon, and the ship was then hauled into the inner harbour. The misfortune which had befallen her bore a serious aspect; it being feared, that it would be impracticable to repair her; however, these apprehensions were soon relieved, by the generous conduct of the late president of the republic, by whom spars were furnished, the use of the arsenal was granted, and every facility afforded.

'The brig being ready for sea, the general and staff embarked, and sailed from Baltimore, on the 27th of September. During his stay in that city, the simplicity and modesty of his demeanour, the honesty of his transactions, and his gentlemanly deportment, had gained him the esteem of a considerable portion of its society. He was applied to, while in the United States, to lend his assistance to the equipping of South American privateers; and, though the offer was highly advantageous, he refused it with indignation: "What reason," said he, "have you to suppose that Xavier Mina would plunder his unoffending countrymen? I war against Ferdinand and tyranny, not against Spaniards."

'While the ship was refitting, general Mina arrived at Port au Prince. Although he was much chagrined by the late disaster, and the delay and expense resulting therefrom, yet, by his activity and perseverance, he soon surmounted this first obstacle to his expedition. He was received with particular attention by general Petion, who afforded him every assistance in his power.

‘In this place, several individuals, both Americans and Europeans, abandoned the expedition. In some few instances, they were prevented from accompanying it by sickness; but the majority of the assigned reasons, in extenuation of their conduct, which should have been seriously considered before they volunteered. Mina viewed their defection with merited disregard; observing, that he wished none to follow his fortunes, but such as would voluntarily and cheerfully devote themselves to the cause of liberty. This loss was, however, in some measure counterbalanced by the acquisition of some seamen, who had deserted from a French frigate, then laying in the roads.

‘The general had understood, that commodore Aury, a patriot naval commander, was cruising in the Bay of Mexico, and that he had formed an establishment on the island of San Luis, at the mouth of the river La Trinidad. Thither he determined to repair, under the expectation that his views would be promoted by that officer. Having engaged a small schooner, in lieu of the Spanish vessel which had upset during the late hurricane, and the ship being refitted in the best possible manner, the expedition, consisting of the brig, ship, and schooner, on the 24th of October, made sail for the island of San Luis, on the Mexican coast.

‘Misfortune seems to have accompanied the expedition, from the date of the ship's arrival at Hayti. After leaving Port au Prince, an almost continual calm was experienced, so that the expedition was thirty days in performing a voyage, which, with the usual sea breeze in those latitudes, could have been made in ten or twelve. The tediousness of the voyage was, however, a light evil, compared with others which the expedition was doomed to suffer. That dreadful contagion, the yellow fever, broke out on board the ship. It had been brought from the shore by one of the passengers, who died a few days after sailing. The infection spread to the other vessels. The brig, not being crowded, suffered

little, losing only one man. The ship's sick list was soon swelled to fifty and sixty daily: however, not more than seven or eight died. But on board the schooner, where the air was confined, a melancholy scene ensued; of the few on board, eight died, among whom was lieutenant colonel Daly. At last, the brig was obliged to take her in tow, as there was not an individual on board free from the fever, except a black woman. Indeed, had it not been for the exertions of an excellent physician, it is probable the expedition would have been destroyed. This worthy man, Dr. John Hennessy, formerly of Kingston, Jamaica, did not merely give evidence of his professional skill, but his indefatigable activity, and sympathizing attentions, were unremitting, and endeared him to every individual of the expedition. The vessels arrived at the Grand Cayman island, where a plentiful supply of turtle was procured; which, together with cool northerly breezes, soon rendered the passengers convalescent. At this island, they who were on board the schooner represented to the general, that it was impossible for them to proceed any farther in that ill-fated vessel. Orders were therefore given, that those, who were reported to be free from fever, should be passed on board the ship; while the schooner, with her sick, went into the Grand Cayman. The ship and brig proceeded on their course, and arrived off the encampment at San Luis, on the 24th of November, after a distressing passage of thirty days.

‘The general here met with commodore Aury, and, as the north winds, which render the Mexican coast very dangerous, then prevailed, an order was given for the landing of the expedition. As there was not sufficient water on the bar to admit the vessels, measures were taken to unload them; and an old hulk, lying in the harbour, was appropriated, by the commodore, for the reception of the stores.

‘The settlement, called Galvezton, was established on the east end of the Island. The entrance into the harbour is de-

fended by a bar, capable of admitting vessels of easy draft, there being twelve feet of water on it; but the swell often renders the channel dangerous. Inside the bar, there is a good depth of water, up to the settlement, but the bay, into which the river La Trinidad disembogues, is in many parts very shoal. The island is low; and the water, which is obtained by digging in the sand, is brackish. A plenty of good water may, however, be obtained in the cane brakes, at some distance from Galvezton, where the shipping usually fill their casks. The island is intersected by large bayous. It is covered with long prairie grass; and abounds with deer and wild fowls; while the bay yields fine fish, and the bayous excellent oysters.

' As soon as the troops were landed, an encampment was laid out, and the tents were pitched. On the west side of Galvezton, commodore Aury had commenced throwing up a mud fort; and, to the westward of this, was Mina's encampment. The requisite arms were served out, two field-pieces and two howitzers were landed, and the engineer department was diligently employed in preparing fixed ammunition; the mechanics were set to work, clothing was served out to the men, and the officers were furnished with their respective uniforms. The commodore supplied the division with rations of excellent fresh bread, salt beef, pork, fish, oil, and brandy; which, with the game, and the supplies brought by the coasters, enabled the division to fare well.

' In the meantime, the ship and brig, as it was unsafe to keep them at anchorage on the coast, had been ordered to proceed to New Orleans.

' The immediate attention of the general was directed to the organization of his regiments. Officers were appointed to the different corps, which it was expected would be filled up soon after the descent should be made. The American officers, who did not understand the Spanish language, were formed into a company, styled, "the Guard of Honour of

the Mexican Congress," of which the general was captain, a colonel the lieutenant, and so on. Colonel Young, an officer who had distinguished himself in the service of the United States, and whose gallantry and activity we shall have occasion hereafter to notice, was subsequently placed in command of this company. The numbers of the expedition being few, this arrangement was made, both with the view to self-defence, and to keep the officers united; the general intending to transfer them to other corps, as they acquired a knowledge of the Spanish language, in which the chaplain of the division commenced instructing them. In fact, all the measures of the general clearly proved that he perfectly knew how to order his little force to the best advantage.'

After the expedition had been delayed for some time at Galvezton, during which time Mina had made a visit to New Orleans, they reembarked and made sail on the 27th of March.

'The force of the division, on board the fleet, including all those in any manner attached to it, the sailors, mechanics, and servants, was three hundred.

'Soon after sailing, it came on to blow heavy from the westward, which threatened a long run; and it was also discovered that the *Cleopatra* had not the necessary provisions on board. The general had confided in the reports made by the then commissary, Bianchi, and the captain of the ship, and presumed, that, agreeably thereto, stores were shipped. Supplies were, however, obtained from the cargo of the prize brig: but, on the arrival of the fleet off the Rio Grande del Norte, the water was nearly expended. As the weather had moderated, the general resolved to endeavour to procure supplies there, and the fleet ran in and anchored off the mouth of the river. A sergeant's guard had been stationed there by the royalists, for the purpose, as was understood, of preventing privateers from watering. Major Sarda and some other officers, who volunteered, were sent on shore to ascer-

tain if supplies could be procured. As the fleet had hoisted Spanish colours, and as major Sarda, the commander of the party was a Spaniard, the guard supposed the fleet to be Spanish, bound to Vera Cruz. The boats had free access to the river to obtain water, and the soldiers of the guard drove up some cattle, which were wild, and in great abundance. The bar of the Rio Grande is very shoal, and it was with great difficulty that a small supply of water could be got off, owing to the danger of the bar. A boat belonging to commodore Aury's schooner was upset among the breakers, and a Spanish officer, lieutenant Dallares, was unfortunately lost. This young Spaniard, to whom Mina had been a benefactor, and who had left England with him, was one of the few of his countrymen, that had adhered to the general to the last. Mina was much attached to him, and deeply regretted the accident which had deprived him of a warm friend. Four men also, belonging to the fleet, deserted and hid themselves in the woods; they afterwards presented themselves to the enemy, to whom they gave every information.

As soon as the vessels had obtained a sufficient supply of fresh beef and water, to carry the expedition to the intended point, the fleet made sail, with the wind at south east, but it soon afterwards shifted to the westward, and blew a gale, in which the vessels were dispersed. The troops on board the *Cleopatra*, whose stores were less ample than those of the other vessels, were thereby placed in a disagreeable situation. The fresh beef would not last more than twenty-four hours, and the prize brig, which had hitherto supplied their wants, was not in sight. The stores were soon reduced to a small quantity of bread, and a keg of almonds, and as the weather continued bad, it became absolutely necessary to put every one on short allowance. Accordingly, half a biscuit, and a few almonds, with a pint of water, were daily served out to each man, the general receiving the same; but this privation continued only five or six days. The *Cleopatra* arrived at

the rendezvous the 11th of April; and the next and following day the rest of the fleet got in also.

‘Arrangements were then made to disembark the troops, and, early on the 15th, it was effected without accident.

‘Two men, dressed and mounted as peasantry (*paisanos*) joined the general in the course of the day. They afforded him some local information, and he understood from them that Don *Felipe La Garza*, the commandant of the district, was in the adjacent town of *Soto la Marina*, with a small force. These men appeared frank and well disposed, and offered their services as guides, and accompanied a party to drive up some horses. They, however, watched an opportunity and slipped off. It afterwards appeared, that these men were Creoles, of that part of the country, and royalist soldiers, who had been sent down by *La Garza* to ascertain the strength of the invading force, which having done, to the best of their abilities, they decamped. The general had brought with him from New Orleans a native of *Soto la Marina*, so that he suffered no great inconvenience for the want of a guide, by the desertion of his new friends.

‘During the passage from Galvezton, Mina published an address to his companions in arms, in which he reminded them of the sacred enterprize in which they had engaged, to constantly bear in mind that they were not going to conquer the country, but to aid in its emancipation from a tyrannical government; he particularly recommended to them, to be careful in conciliating the good will of the inhabitants, to respect their customs, to show the most scrupulous regard to the ministers of religion, and on no occasion, or under any pretence, to violate the sanctity of the temples dedicated to divine worship.

‘The mouth of the river Santander is very narrow, with a bar across it, over which vessels drawing more than six feet of water cannot be carried. Near the beach the country is intersected by large bayous, and shallow ponds, extending a

long way to the northward. After passing the bar, the river suddenly widens, but afterwards gradually contracts itself towards the town of Soto la Marina. It is navigable, for such vessels as can pass the bar, to within a very short distance of the town, beyond which it is too shallow even for boats. The village (pueblo) of Soto la Marina stands upon an elevated situation, on the left or north bank of the river, and is distant from its mouth eighteen leagues.

‘On the morning of the 15th, the boats of the fleet were despatched up the river, and a field piece, some stores, and a detachment of artillery, to meet the division at the old settlement of Soto la Marina, which is but a short distance up the river, on the road to the present village; for which place the division, at the same time, took up its march. The boats, not finding the division at the old settlement, as was expected, proceeded on to the town, where they found the troops had just arrived before them. The division had been three days on the march from the beach, owing to the ignorance of the guide, who had conducted it by a very circuitous route; and it had suffered much, from extreme heat and want of water.

‘The advanced guard, composed of volunteers from the Guard of Honour, and the cavalry, with a detachment of the first regiment of the line, under major Sarda, entered Soto la Marina, without any opposition; La Garza, with the garrison and some families, evacuating the town on its approach. The division was met, at the entrance of the village, by the curate, who welcomed the general with open arms. When La Garza announced to the inhabitants the landing of Mina, he represented him as accompanied by a band of heretics, who had come into the country to deal out destruction on every side, and indiscriminately to put all to the sword. By these misrepresentations, and by coercive measures, he had compelled the most respectable part of the community to abandon the town; and it was with much astonishment and satis-

faction, that the remaining inhabitants found themselves treated with respect.

‘ On taking possession, the necessary proclamations were issued, offering protection to the persons and property of those who remained peaceably at their homes, recalling the inhabitants who had deserted the place, and threatening the confiscation of the property of those who did not return within a given time. Civil officers also were selected from among the inhabitants, and clothed with authority by the general. Colonel the count De Ruuth, at this period, resigned his command, and returned on board of the commodore's vessel. The colonel was highly esteemed by the whole division; and his loss was much regretted. Captain Maylefer was promoted to the rank of major, and appointed to the command of the cavalry.

‘ A printing press was immediately established, under the direction of doctor Infante, a native of Havanna; and the general's manifesto was published. It took a retrospect of his exertions in the cause of liberty, and set forth the motives which had induced him to espouse that of the suffering colonies. This document soon reached the military commandants, many of whom, with their troops, would have joined the standard of Mina; but, as they had ascertained the strength of his division, they held back, conceiving his force too inconsiderable to effect any important object. Nevertheless, many of the inhabitants were not overawed by the royalists; and, in the first instance, countrymen, to the number of upwards of one hundred, united under his banners: they were well-formed, hardy fellows, and subsequently proved themselves faithful and brave. The division, at different periods, was joined by other recruits, the whole number amounting to above two hundred. Among those who joined it were two royalist officers, lieutenant colonel Don Valentine Rubio, and his brother, lieutenant Rubio.

'The attention of the general was constantly directed towards the equipment and regulation of his little band. By colonel Rubio, as well as from other sources, he was furnished with horses; and a hundred of the recruits were attached to the cavalry, the others to the first regiment. They who afterwards joined the division, were enrolled either with the hussars, the dragoons, or the first regiment. The different corps were equipped as follows:—

Guard of Honour, (infantry) officers, uniformed as such, armed with musket and bayonet.

Artillery, Brown coats, faced with red; four field pieces, two six inch howitzers, and two eleven and a half inch mortars.

Cavalry, Hussars, Scarlet hussar jackets, chacot and plume, armed with swords, light dragoon carbines, and pistols.

——, *Dragoons*, United States dragoon uniform, armed with sword, pistol, and lance.

Regiment of the Union, Uniform of the British 104th regiment of infantry.

First regiment of the line, United States rifle uniforms.

Mina, in furtherance of his plans, scoured the country in every direction; but, although these incursions were made by small parties, sometimes not exceeding twenty, yet La Garza, who was hovering in the vicinity of Soto La Marina, with upwards of three hundred men, never attacked them. The general visited some of the towns and haciendas, (plantations) and a detachment penetrated even to *Santander*, the capital of the province: but La Garza's threats obliged the respectable inhabitants to retire from their settlements, on the approach of Mina's parties, and, however ill inclined they might be to such removal, they were forced to comply with seeming alacrity.

'Colonel Perry had for some time given strong evidences of discontent. He had frequently avowed his opinion, that

the division was too weak to be of any service to the patriots, and that he anticipated its annihilation. It was afterwards supposed, that he had long meditated the scheme which he now put into execution. Taking advantage of the absence of the general and colonel Young from the encampment, he harangued his soldiers, and informed them of his intention of separating from Mina, and returning to the United States; he represented to them the very great perils into which they were about to be drawn, and urged them to retreat while an opportunity presented itself. By these means he prevailed on fifty-one of his troops, including major Gordon, and the rest of his officers, with one of the Guard of Honour, to accompany him. They marched in the direction of *Matagorda*, at which place he expected to meet with a sufficient number of boats to convey his party within the line of demarcation, between the United States and the Spanish possessions.

‘The colonel’s conduct caused both surprise and regret; for although he had occasionally manifested some caprice and discontent, yet no one supposed it possible that he could abandon the cause in the hour of danger; and indeed his conduct on this occasion is still very mysterious. Besides, to march with such a handful of men along the sea coast, where he knew that water, particularly at that season of the year, was very scarce, and when the enemy, it was presumable, would oppose his progress, was an act of palpable rashness.

‘It was subsequently ascertained from the best Mexican authorities, that the colonel did actually penetrate to within a short distance of his destined point; after several skirmishes with the royal troops, in which success attended him. Flushed with these victories, he determined on attacking a fortified position near *Matagorda*, which might have been left in his rear, as the garrison did not evince the least disposition to annoy him. He had summoned the commandant to surrender, who was deliberating on the propriety of do-

ing so, at the moment when a party of two hundred cavalry made its appearance. A refusal to the summons was the consequence. The garrison sallied out, and a severe action commenced, in which Perry and his men displayed the most determined valour. They continued combating against this superiority of force till every man was killed, except Perry. Finding himself the only survivor, and determined not to be made a prisoner, he presented a pistol to his head, and terminated his existence. Thus perished a brave but rash man, and with him fell some valuable officers and men.

‘Colonel Perry had been in the United States’ service, and was at the memorable battle of New Orleans. He embarked in the cause of Mexico, and was attached to the division that invaded Texas, under Don Jose Bernardo Gutierrez. He was under the command of Toledo, in the attack made on the Spanish troops commanded by Arredondo, in advance of San Antonio de Bejor, on the 18th of August, 1813. In that disastrous affair, the colonel behaved with his usual courage, but narrowly escaped with his life. His sufferings from fatigue and privations were extreme, before he again reached the United States.

‘The desertion of colonel Perry, with so great a number of valuable men, was a most severe blow to Mina; but it did not daunt his resolute mind. Major Stirling, who had been in the service of the United States, was appointed to the command of the regiment of the union, and other officers were nominated in lieu of those who had deserted.’

A junction was at length effected with the patriot forces, not however until the little army had been thirty days on the march, and had traversed a distance of two hundred and twenty leagues.

‘It was harassed a considerable distance by the enemy, from which cause, and from the nature of the marches, no regular supplies of provisions could be procured. Frequent-

ly two, sometimes three, and even four days had elapsed, without rations: and in no instance did the division, except in El Valle de Mais, procure more than one meal a day, and that of meat only; fighting, during these scenes of privation and fatigue, two severe battles, and taking one town. The troops bore up against hardships, with cheerfulness, by observing that their leader fared like themselves, and in the hour of danger was invariably at their head, cheering them on.

‘ The privations which the division suffered, did not arise from the want of means in that part of Mexico, to support an army, but from the circumstances of the general being obliged to seek the most unfrequented paths, and the constant and rapid marches which his situation obliged him to make, frequently not allowing him time to refresh his troops, except by a few hours sleep, which the troops generally preferred to employing the time in cooking. If Mina's force had been strong enough to have allowed him to advance by the high road, the division would have fared differently, for few countries can afford more provisions for an army than Mexico, particularly in meat. A few leagues from the sea coast, where there is scarcely any population, bread is difficult to be obtained, but soon afterwards, an army reaches a delightful country, tolerably well settled, enjoying a fine climate, and where in the towns, wheat bread can always be procured.

‘ By looking over M. le Baron de Humboldt's chart, the only correct one extant, it will be seen that the distance by the king's high way (*camino real*), from Soto la Marina to Sombrero, is not more than half the distance before mentioned, but Mina's peculiar situation obliged him to take circuitous routes, which can be seen by tracing the march on the maps.

‘ The following is the return made by colonel Noboa, of the strength of the division, on its arrival at Sombrero:—

The general and staff, -	10
Guard of Honour, -	23
Cavalry, -	109
Regiment of the Union, -	46
First regiment of the line, -	59
Artillerists, -	5
Armed servants, -	12
Ordinanzas, -	5
	<hr/>
Total,	269
	<hr/>

‘Of these twenty-five were wounded; and the loss, in killed, and those who were taken prisoners on the road, amounted to thirty-nine. When it is considered that the division marched through so great an extent of enemy’s country, enduring severe privations and sufferings, for thirty days, it will appear almost incredible, that under such circumstances, besides fighting two battles and carrying by storm one town, the loss sustained should have been so trifling. It affords a criterion, which will enable the reader to judge of the skill and enterprise of Mina; and of the good conduct of his officers and men.’

We have not room to follow the author through his very minute detail of the proceedings of Mina, the narrative is curious, and doubtless authentic, but contains little variety of incidents: great fatigues were borne, many severe battles gallantly won against superior numbers, but the jealousy of *Padre Torres*, the patriot chief, appears to have caused the disastrous issue of the expedition. We pass on to the description of the last operation of the ill-fated chief, his defeat and death.

‘At the hacienda of La Caxa, Mina assembled about eleven hundred troops, with which he advanced to the hacienda of Burras. In the night of the 23d, avoiding the high roads,

and having made a circuit through the cultivated grounds, he passed along the heights immediately over the city of Guanaxuato, and gained, by day-light, an unfrequented spot, called La Mina de la Luz, in the mountains, about four leagues therefrom. He halted there during the day, awaiting the arrival of some reenforcements of infantry and cavalry, despatched by Don Encarnacion Ortiz. They joined him in the afternoon, and his force, thus augmented, amounted to nearly fourteen hundred men, of whom ninety only were infantry.

‘ Before relating the disastrous attack on the city of Guanaxuato, it will be proper to present the reader with a brief view of this celebrated town, because, in point of wealth and natural advantages, it holds the next rank in importance to the capital of New Spain; and indeed, as respects its physical resources, is equal, if not superior, to any city in Spanish America. These circumstances alone were such as to render its capture an enterprise worthy of the gallant Mina, and of the greatest importance to the revolutionary cause.

‘ Guanaxuato, the capital of the intendency of that name, is situated amidst the rich metalliferous mountains, which border upon the plains of Silao, Salamanca, &c. on the east. Those plains, (usually called by the inhabitants the Baxio,) are the most beautiful and fertile to be found in all New Spain. The glowing description given by the baron de Humboldt, of the beauty and agricultural richness of this region, is not, in any respect, exaggerated; indeed it is impossible for the traveller to pass through that highly favoured country, without experiencing emotions of admiration and delight. The softness and purity of the atmosphere are soothing and invigorating; and the effect on the vision is such, that in no place have we ever beheld a verdure so vivid, as that of the vegetable productions of those plains.

‘ The mountains in its vicinity are abrupt, lofty, and rugged, like all those which abound in minerals. They are intersected with deep barrancas, many of them from two to

three hundred yards wide, and the awful precipices with which these barrancas abound, strike the stranger with surprise. The highly cultivated plains, and the chains of mountains, present the most sublime scenery, mingling the extremes of light and shade in the most striking and exquisite contrast; equalling the most celebrated of European scenery in grandeur and magnitude, and rivalling the softest landscapes of Lausanne or Italy.

‘ Along the windings of one of these barrancas is situated the city of Guanaxuato. It is so completely bosomed by surrounding mountains, that it can only be seen after ascending the heights around it, when the novelty of its location strikes the stranger with astonishment. In some places, the city spreads out like a broad amphitheatre; at others, it stretches along a narrow ridge: while the ranges of the habitations, accommodated to the sinuosities of the ground, present the most fantastic, but perhaps to most varied and elegant, groups of dwellings. Prior to the revolution, its population was estimated at seventy thousand souls; but at present that number has experienced a great diminution.

‘ During the rainy season, it is exposed to injury from the violent torrents that rush from the mountains down the barranca in which the city stands, in their passage to the plain of Silao. Large sums have been expended on works to restrain these torrents within a channel; but, nevertheless, accidents happen to the city from them almost every year.

‘ The finest silver mines of all America are in its immediate vicinity, particularly the famous one of Valenciana. Previous to the revolution, this mine yielded to its proprietor the clear annual revenue of half a million of dollars.

‘ The mines of the Mexican kingdom, and particularly those of Guanaxuato, form an important and interesting exception to the remark, that death reigns in the mines of America. The mines of Peru, as well as those of New Granada, are in general situated in uncougenial regions, or those of

perpetual snow. Vegetation is not seen for many leagues around them. Provisions are brought to them from a great distance. The miner has to undergo the transition from extreme heat to that of cold; to abandon delightful vallies, blessed with a fine temperature, to inhabit a frigid region, where everlasting sterility prevails. He is forced by the law of the *Mita* to abandon his family, or, if they accompany him, it is only to partake of his hardships and his sorrows. Widely different is the lot of the Mexican miner. At an elevation of from six to seven thousand feet above the ocean, he enjoys all the blessings of the temperate zone. In Mexico, we see the highest cultivation in the vicinity of mining stations. The intendancy of Guanaxuato is the smallest, and contains the most dense population of any other in Mexico. According to M. de Humboldt, it is fifty-two leagues in length, and thirty-one in breadth; covering a surface equal to nine hundred and eleven square leagues, which, in 1803, contained a population of five hundred and seventeen thousand three hundred souls, or five hundred and sixty-eight to each square league. The beautiful plains of Guanaxuato, extending in length thirty leagues, from Celaya to the Villa de Leon, and immediately around the mines, are in the highest state of cultivation, studded with three cities, four towns, thirty-seven pueblos, and four hundred and forty-eight haciendas. The mountains abound with fine forests, and provisions and luxuries are abundant in all directions around these mines.

‘ Hundreds of miners of Guanaxuato came under our observation, and a more robust race of people we beheld not in Mexico. Thus, from personal observation, we were led to adopt the opinion, that the labour incident to their course of life, was not so deleterious as we should otherwise have thought.

‘ In the mine of Valenciana, for example, previous to the revolution, (for since that period, it has, in a great measure,

become filled with water,) the business of a large portion of the labourers was the continually carrying upon their backs burthens of minerals, averaging three hundred pounds, from the bottom to the mouth of the mine, by an ascent of eighteen hundred steps, passing too through a temperature varying from forty-five to ninety-three degrees. Nevertheless, the miner enjoys perfect health; and the proportion of births to deaths, as given by M. de Humboldt, at once demonstrates, although a large proportion of the inhabitants are Indians, the salubrity of the mining station. In the city of Guanaxuato, the average number of births for five years exceeds that of the deaths two hundred for one hundred; and in the adjoining mines of Santa Ana and Marfil a hundred and ninety-five to a hundred.

‘That the labour in the mines may have been pernicious in former years, when it was compulsory, and when the barbarous law of the *Mita* was in force, when the pits and galleries were charged with impure air, and less attention was bestowed on the accommodation of the miner, we cannot deny; but the improvements which have been made within the last twenty-five years by the school of mines established in the city of Mexico, have lessened these evils, and introduced a system by which the mines are ventilated, and the air purified. The wages of the miner are more liberal, and his labour being voluntary, consequently, when he feels dissatisfied, he retires, and his place is supplied from the superabundant population of the adjacent fertile country. No doubt can be entertained, that when foreign arts and sciences are introduced into Mexico, where so spacious and favourable a field for their culture is at present fenced round by Spanish policy, human labour in the mines will be greatly diminished; and instead of the tedious and laborious occupations, now resorted to from necessity, machinery will, in a great measure, effect these objects, diminish human suffering, and diffuse happiness over those delightful regions. It is there that the power of steam remains yet to be successfully applied.

‘Historians and travellers have been so much accustomed to copy each other in depicting the horrors of the unfortunate miner, that the galley slaves of Europe have been considered happy when compared with the individual who descends into the mines of Spanish America; and, although some of these poetical descriptions of Raynal, Pauw, and the Scottish historian Robertson, may have been in past times applicable to the mines of Potosi, and others among the Andes of Peru, we feel satisfied that such descriptions will not apply to the condition of the miner in Mexico. It has likewise been a vulgar opinion throughout the civilized world, that an immense proportion of the Indian population were employed in the mines. Leaving the consideration of what occurs in South America to the future observer, we confine ourselves to Mexico, when we state, that in the year 1807, according to the returns transmitted to the school of mines, the whole number of persons employed in all the mines of New Spain were thirty-two thousand three hundred and forty. So that, when we reflect that the population of New Spain is between six and seven millions, we at once perceive how small, to the general population of the country, is the proportion of persons engaged in this species of labour. But since the present revolution commenced, some of the mines have been abandoned, others have become choked up with water, and therefore, the above number must necessarily be considerably reduced. Should our hopes that a liberal government may at no distant day be established in New Spain be realized, it is plain that the introduction of machinery will not only lessen the number of men hitherto employed in those works, but will augment the produce of these mines far beyond what they have yet yielded, so as to keep pace with the necessary demands of an augmenting population, and the additional calls of the world in its career of improvement.

‘ It is not, however, the mines of Guanaxuato which constitute the real wealth of that important intendency of New Spain. Its riches are founded on a more durable basis. The benignity of the climate, the fertility of the soil, and the hardy race of men susceptible of every polish and refinement, and with genius calculated to pursue every intellectual enterprise with ardour and success, are blessings which will exist, even should the silver of its piled-up mountains be exhausted.

‘ All the nutritious grains necessary for human enjoyment and support, find a congenial soil and climate in the intendency of Guanaxuato. Those adjoining it are equally blessed. No part of the earth yields a more abundant product to the labours of the agriculturist, nor do we believe there is any climate so favourable to longevity, or a territory which would sustain a more dense population on each square mile, than the climate and territory of the intendency of Guanaxuato. Not only its fertile plains, but its loftiest summits appear destined for the abodes of rural felicity.

‘ The future race of Mexicans which is to flourish in this favoured part of New Spain, is not destined to depend on the caprices of artificial policy, nor the casualties of foreign commerce, for the supply of either necessities or luxuries. The inhabitants of this intendency, as well as of Mexico generally, are sure of the jealousy of selfish or less favoured nations; and it is, perhaps, fortunate for them, because they will the more readily apply the energy of their genius, and their industry, to supply from their own resources those commodities, by supplying the wants of which, other nations might be enabled to interfere in their prosperity, and subject them to the deleterious system which has already made South America suffer three centuries of wretchedness, and has not spared any part of the world from its vexation. As we have before observed, whatever foreign productions of the temperate zone may hereafter be introduced into this intendency, will

there flourish; while its indigenous productions, and the few of foreign origin at present introduced, are alone amply sufficient for human comfort and subsistence. Although the agriculture of Mexico is a century behind that of Europe or the United States, still its products are astonishingly great. As wheat is sown in the dry season, it is raised by irrigation. M. de Humboldt makes the average produce of Mexico from twenty-two to twenty-five for one. But it varies in different situations from eighteen and twenty to seventy and eighty for one fanega sown;—its average thus exceeding four or five times the mean produce of France. Indian corn grows variously; in some parts of the Baxio it yields the astonishing increase of eight hundred for one fanega sown; in some parts, the harvest is considered bad at one hundred and fifty for one. The mean produce of the equinoctial region of Mexico is taken by M. de Humboldt at one hundred and fifty for one.

‘The fruits, whether indigenous or exotic, grow to great perfection in Guanaxuato; and in any of the markets are exhibited in the same baskets, as well the products of the temperate as those of the torrid zone. There, in the highest state of perfection, are offered for sale, pineapples, grapes, oranges, bananas, peaches, apples, pears, &c., gathered within a few leagues of each other. The animals of Guanaxuato are of a superior kind. The sheep which browse on the mountains afford a delicious meat, and yield a remarkably fine wool. The horses, in point of beauty, form, muscle, bone and high mettle, are no where surpassed.

‘In no part of New Spain is there a finer race of men than in Guanaxuato, and the character is common to Indians and Creoles. Robust in their limbs, comely and athletic, with an eye denoting extraordinary acuteness, these men create emotions in a stranger rarely excited at first sight; and whenever the blessings of a liberal government shall be obtained by them, and the advantages of an extended and liberal educa-

tion be diffused among them, we predict that the province of Guanaxuato will occupy a distinguished place among the Mexican provinces. But let us resume the operations against the city.

‘It is evident from the description we have given of Guanaxuato, that artillery, placed on the heights which encompass it, would soon cause it to succumb. However, as the enemy entertained no apprehensions of formidable attacks from the patriots, they had neglected to fortify the passes of the mountains leading to the city, and relied for their defence on a castle or strong barracks which stood in a central position.

‘Mina was not provided with the necessary artillery to occupy the heights; and as Orrantia was following him, he resolved to carry the city by a coup de main. His intention was communicated to the troops, who manifested an anxiety to be led on. Pleased with their enthusiasm, and flattering himself that he was about to strike a blow which would give a decisive turn to the revolution, he made his arrangements accordingly. Filled with these presages, he appeared more than usually animated, and at dark advanced upon the city. At eleven o'clock the advanced guard arrived in the suburbs. A considerable halt was there made, to enable the division to close up, as the defiles through which the place had been approached were very narrow; in some places not affording a passage for more than a single file of men. The troops at length reunited, and although the sentinels were proclaiming within a short distance their “all’s well,” yet such had been the silence and good order on the part of Mina’s troops, that the enemy were not apprized of his approach until after midnight; they received the first intimation of it, by the surprise and capture of one of their outposts. The alarm of the enemy became general, and a firing commenced from the castle. But habits of discipline were again found wanting, and scenes even more disgraceful than those we have formerly described

as having occurred at San Luis de la Paz, were here reacted at the critical moment when order and obedience were most required. Mina found himself surrounded by a military mob. In vain did he employ persuasion or threats; his mildness won them not; his orders were not obeyed; and although the enemy's fire had slackened for some time, thereby offering an opportunity for the assault, all his attempts were fruitless—he could not induce them to move forward. Until near the dawn did the general fruitlessly exert himself to restore some order, and prevail on the troops to advance; but finding it impossible, and knowing that Orrantia was approaching, he was compelled to abandon the assault, and to commence a retreat. With such troops as these, after the failure of an enterprise, a retreat must be synonymous with flight. Insensible that they could pass with more celerity and safety by preserving a regular order of march, they crowded to the defile by which they had entered, each one endeavouring to precede the other; they soon choked up the pass, and a tumult ensued. A few of the enemy perceiving the retreat, ventured from their position, and fired some random shots. The confusion augmented with the alarm of the fugitives, lest they should be overtaken by the enemy, as they were thus huddled together. At length the general, with infinite difficulty, succeeded in allaying their apprehensions, and restored some little order among them. During this disastrous scene, Don Francisco Ortiz, one of the patriot officers, had with part of his troops gained the height on which stand the works of the Valenciana mine; and most wantonly set fire to them. This act highly incensed Mina, as he had uniformly given the most positive orders against the destruction of private property.

‘The troops were at length extricated from the defile, and a little after sunrise reached La Mina de La Luz, where a halt was made. The general could no longer conceal his deep mortification, nor restrain his exasperated feelings. To

a body of patriot officers who were assembled around him, he observed, that they were unworthy that any man of character should espouse their cause. "Had you done your duty," said he, "your men would have done theirs, and Guanaxuato would have been ours." The order of the day passed a censure on those who deserved it, and commended a few who had merited his applause by their good conduct.

' Having thus failed in his favourite enterprise against Guanaxuato, and having now no immediate object in view to employ the troops; in order to deceive the royalists as to his own movements, he dismissed them to their respective commandancias, where he believed they might be useful in harassing the enemy, until he again required their services; thereby, at the same time, preserving his men and horses from the marches and countermarches to which they would have been subject from the pursuit of Orrantia, and recruiting them for his next attempt. He strictly enjoined those commandants whose stations were around Guanaxuato not to allow supplies of any kind to enter the city; still fondly persuading himself that he would be able to renew the attack upon it with more effect. Retaining with him forty infantry and thirty cavalry, the general determined to proceed to the residence of his friend Don Mariano Herrera, at a neighbouring rancho called El Venadito. Accordingly, on the same evening, after having dismissed the troops, he took up his march for that place, but passed the night at a short distance from La Mina de la Luz.

' The Rancho del Venadito was composed of a few houses on the lands of the Tlachiquera, about one league distant from the hacienda, and eight from the town of Silao. Its owner, Don Mariano Herrera, was a native of Guanaxuato. A man of high respectability, and of a mind well cultivated. He had suffered severely from the royalists. Orrantia had laid waste the hacienda, burned the buildings, and pillaged the church, converting it into a stable. The unfortunate Don

Mariano had fallen a prisoner into his hands, and had been carried off by him, together with all the property that could be collected. After being thus despoiled, and his fine estate destroyed, he was compelled to ransom his life by paying twenty thousand dollars. Upon being set at liberty, he returned to his estate, and there employed himself in the pursuits of agriculture. His mansion and buildings being burned, his crops destroyed, his cattle and moveables taken away, and his funds exhausted, he was unable to restore his estate to its pristine condition; and it became a place for his personal subsistence and rest. Indeed, had he possessed the means of recalling its former comforts and beauties, it would only have exposed him anew to the depredations of an insatiable rapacity. He therefore constructed only a small house, and as his dependants were devoted to him, he hoped from the peculiar situation of the Venadito to enjoy a secure retreat.

‘The Venadito was placed in a small circular barranca, in front of which was a small plain. The barranca was more or less covered with a copse, among which were interspersed large masses of rocks. Through these wound the only path to the high grounds surrounding,—a spacious table land, bounded at its extremity by barrancas. The road from Guanaxuato and Silao running through a long, narrow, and intricate barranca, in which dwelt a numerous peasantry warmly attached to the cause of liberty, and devoted to Don Mariano, was supposed to afford complete protection from a surprise by the enemy in that direction, as their approach could be communicated to Don Mariano in sufficient time to enable him and his attendants to take refuge among the barrancas in the rear of the Venadito. On the other side, there were no royalist posts for a considerable distance, and as the patriot troops under Ortiz ranged unmolested in that direction, no danger was thence apprehended.

'The Venadito was therefore deemed perfectly secure from a surprise by day, and at night it was the custom of Don Mariano to take refuge in the mountains; so that although living in constant apprehension, yet he considered his person as secure. In this solitary spot Don Mariano passed his time, solaced by the attentions of a beloved sister, who had torn herself from her friends in Guanaxuato, to partake of her brother's fortune.

'Mina and Herrera had formed for each other a warm friendship; the former gave to the latter his entire confidence, of which he was in every respect deserving. Mina arrived the next day, about noon, at the Venadito, where he was most cordially received by his friend. He understood that Orrantia was in Irapuato, at a loss to discover what direction he had taken, and he knew that he would be more confounded when he heard of the dispersion of the patriot troops. From these circumstances, and the position of the Venadito, Mina thought himself perfectly secure. He therefore determined to pass the night at the rancho with his friend, and ordered the horses of the cavalry out to pasture. During the afternoon Don Pedro Moreno, who resided in the neighbourhood, visited Mina and remained with him. The troops encamped in advance of the house; videtts were posted; and the general was so satisfied of his security, that, contrary to his usual custom, he retired to rest on the floor in the house. We mention these circumstances, because the sequel will show, that the general, in this rare instance of a departure from his usual habit of sleeping with his men, committed a most unfortunate error.

'Among the pernicious and impolitic practices of the patriots, was that of permitting priests to come out of the enemy's towns to perform mass among them. Many of these men were spies and agents of the royalists, and never failed to collect every possible information for the advantage of their masters. The road by which Mina had that morning

passed, lay through a small pueblo to which a padre repaired weekly from Silao. It was Sunday when the general passed through it. The padre waited on him to pay his respects, conducting himself with all that humility and sycophancy which his fraternity so well know how to use, when a point is to be gained. Mina treated him as he always did persons of his description, with attention and respect, but at the same time with caution. The padre was either informed of or conjectured Mina's destination; but be that as it may, he was so very anxious to carry the gratifying intelligence to the royalists, that the instant Mina departed from the pueblo, without waiting for his dinner he mounted his horse and set out for Silao, distant about five or six leagues.

' Mina's suppositions of Orrantia's incertitude of the course of his proceedings were well founded; for the latter was totally at a loss where to look for the general, and had marched to Silao in that state of uncertainty. The dispersion of Mina's troops increased the perplexity of Orrantia; but while he was in this state of confusion, (as he expressed himself in his despatches to the viceroy,) he received from the priest the unexpected but important information, that Mina had gone to the Venadito. Had not Orrantia by accident arrived in Silao that very evening, the padre's intentions and information must have been of no avail, because it was the intention of Mina to have marched from the Venadito the ensuing morning. A concurrence of unfortunate circumstances, however, seems to have led to that catastrophe which we are about to narrate. Orrantia, notwithstanding the fatigue of his troops, lost not a moment in putting them in motion, and having gained a position suitable for his design, placed them in ambush near the Venadito, intending, as soon as day-light should enable him to discern objects, to fall upon Mina's party.

' At dawn of the morning of the 27th, Orrantia's cavalry sallied from the ambush, and advanced in full speed on Mina's

encampment. The alarm was given. The troopers of Mina, finding themselves cut off from their horses at pasture, mingled with the infantry, whose first impulse was to save themselves by flight. If thirty infantry only had united at that juncture, such was the situation of the ground, that they could have repelled the whole force of Orrantia, or at least could have held him in check and made good their retreat. But officers and soldiers thought of nothing but their own safety; in the utmost disorder they rushed forward to gain the summit of the hills, and thence escape by the barrancas in the rear. Mina, awakened by the noise and tumult of his flying troops, started from the floor, and rushed out of the house in the same apparel in which he had passed the night, without coat, hat, or even his sword. Regardless of his person, his first object was to attempt the rallying of his flying troops: but all his exertions were unavailing. He soon found himself alone. He beheld the enemy pursuing and cutting down his flying comrades; and attempted, when too late, to secure his own safety; but the enemy were upon him. Still hallooing to the fugitives to halt and form, he was seized by a dragoon: having no arms whatever, resistance was useless.

‘If Mina, on first leaving the house, had attempted to escape, he might have succeeded with as much ease as many others: but we suppose such a thought never entered his mind. His favourite servant, a coloured boy of New Orleans, after the general left the house, saddled his best horse, and went in pursuit of his master, carrying likewise his sword and pistols; but unfortunately he found him not.

‘The dragoon who captured Mina was ignorant of the rank of his prisoner, until informed of it by the general himself. He was then pinioned, and conducted into the presence of Orrantia, who in the most arrogant manner began to reproach him for having taken up arms against his sovereign, and to interrogate him concerning his motives in thus becoming a traitor, insulting him, and lavishing upon him the

bitterest crinations. Mina, who on the most trying occasions never lost his presence of mind and characteristic firmness, replied to the interrogatories in so sarcastic a strain, and with such strong expressions of contempt and indignation manifested in his countenance, that the brutal Orrantia started from his seat, and *beat with the flat of his sword his disarmed and pinioned prisoner*. Mina, motionless as a statue, endured this indignity; and then, with a crest brightened by conscious greatness, and an eye glowing with the fires of an elevated spirit, he looked down upon his conqueror, and said; "I regret being made a prisoner; but to fall into the hands of one regardless of the character of a Spaniard and a soldier, renders my misfortune doubly keen." The magnanimity of Mina filled every man present with admiration, and even Orrantia stood confounded with the severity of his rebuke.

'The capture of Mina was considered by the Spanish government as an event of such high importance, that they have honoured the present viceroy, Don Juan Ruiz de Apodaca, with the title of Conde del Venadito. Linan and Orrantia have been presented with military crosses; and to the dragoon who actually took Mina, a yearly stipend has been assigned, accompanied by promotion to the station of a corporal.

'A letter, purporting to be written by Mina to Linan, on the 3d of November, after his capture, has appeared in the Mexican Gazette, which, although it contains nothing but what might be expected from a man whose mind was soured by the conduct of such men as Padre Torres, yet is couched in a style that renders it a suspicious document; besides that the whole tenor of Mina's conduct, from the moment of his capture to that of his execution, forbids the belief of his having written the letter in question. We further know, that subsequent to his capture, he wrote a letter to his countryman, Don Pablo Erdozain, who commanded at the work of

Tepeaca, in which letter, written in the provincial dialect of Navarre, he gives some instructions about his own private affairs, and concludes by wishing Erdozain success, and exhorting him to pursue a conduct marked by honour and consistency. We have thought proper to mention these circumstances, in order to counteract any erroneous impression that may have been made by the publication before alluded to in the Mexican Gazette. We have, on other occasions, noticed the recantations and penitential documents published in that Gazette, relative to Hidalgo, Morelos, and other patriot chiefs, all of which are now well known to have been forgeries of the royalists, for the purpose of deceiving the people.

‘ Five of the officers of Mina’s division, and some few of the soldiers, escaped from the Venadito. Don Jose Maria Liceaga succeeded in his flight on horseback. The Creole troops in general began their flight so early in the alarm, that they had time to conceal themselves in the broken ground. Of the division, four men were killed. Don Pedro Moreno, who had fled up the side of the barranca, was overtaken, killed, and his head severed from his body: this trophy was afterwards stuck on a pole. Don Mariano Herrera, and about fourteen of the troops, were made prisoners: these, with the exception of Don Mariano, were executed.

‘ Orrantia, after the disgraceful scene we have already noticed, inquired the force of the patriots in his neighbourhood. Mina informed him; when, conceiving perhaps that a desperate effort might be made to rescue the general, he immediately retreated upon Silao with his prisoner, who was treated with every indignity. This ungenerous treatment was borne by Mina with his characteristic fortitude. The situation of his companions engrossed his reflections; and while on the road, his endeavours to cheer them up were constant.

‘ On reaching Silao, he was put into irons by his savage conductor. Thence he was removed to Irapuato, and finally to Linan’s head-quarters in front of Tepeaca at Los Reme-

dios, where he was committed to the care of the regiment of Navarra. There, his treatment was such as a brave man deserved; every humane attention was shown him, and his situation was made as comfortable as possible.

‘ We have understood that among the few of the papers which fell into the hands of the enemy were some in cipher. To obtain an explanation of these was a matter of great consequence, because they would develop the names of certain patriots who resided within their walls, and who had held correspondence with Mina. Fortunately for the writers, Mina had been accustomed, on receiving any communication of importance, to copy it, and destroy the original. All his answers to their inquiries breathed fidelity to a cause in which he had been so shamefully treated, and thus displayed in a new light the nobleness of his character. We have conversed with some royal officers who were present at these conversations; and they have assured us, that such was the admiration excited by his conduct, that there were few officers in Linan's army who did not sympathize in Mina's misfortune, and were much more disposed to liberate than to sacrifice him.

‘ Upon the arrival at Mexico of the express which had been despatched to announce the capture of Mina, couriers were sent by the viceroy to every part of the kingdom, to convey the cheering intelligence. Te Deums were chanted in the churches; salutes of artillery, illuminations, and rejoicings, took place in every town in possession of the royalists; and such was the general joy among them, that they hailed the capture of Mina as the termination of the revolution. These demonstrations on the part of the government and its adherents, are in themselves no common eulogium on the character of Mina.

‘ In the city of Mexico, a great anxiety prevailed to behold Mina, and had he reached that place, great interest would have been made to save his life; but the viceroy, fearing the

consequences that might ensue should he be brought thither, and being in constant dread lest he should escape, despatched an order to Linan for the immediate execution of his prisoner.

‘ When this order was communicated to Mina, he received it without any visible emotion. He continued to resist all overtures for the purpose of drawing information from him, but regretted that he had not landed in Mexico one year sooner, when his services would have been more effective. He likewise regretted quitting life so deeply indebted to certain individuals, who had generously aided his enterprise.

‘ On the 11th of November (as well as we can now recollect) he was conducted under a military escort to the fatal ground, attended by a file of the Cacadores of the regiment of Zaragoza. In this last scene of his life was the hero of Navarre not unmindful of his character; with a firm step he advanced to the fatal spot, and with his usual serenity told the soldiers to take good aim, “*Y no me hagais sufrir*,” (and don’t let me suffer.) The officer commanding gave the accustomed signal; they fired; and that spirit fled from earth, which, for all the qualities which constitute the hero and the patriot, seemed to have been born for the good of mankind.’

ART. II.—*Extracts from Jacob's View of Germany.* 4to. pp. 450. London, 1820.

1. *Agriculture.*—‘ It was my fortune to fall in with a very intelligent man, a considerable land owner and farmer, who was very communicative, and appeared to be remarkably accurate. He accompanied me to the large village or rather town of Arana-geon, where he resided, and where he invited me to see his premises. I learnt from him, that the usual course of cropping on the farms between the spot where the rich meadows ceased, and his estate, was the following: The land when cleaned was manured, and sowed with buck wheat; after that a second dressing of dung is administered, and after a single

plowing, rye is sowed. The rye is usually harvested in July, when turneps are sowed after a single plowing. They have three crops in every two years. The produce of the buck-wheat on an average of years, is a last, or $10\frac{1}{2}$ quarters to four malts, or two morgens of land, or twenty to twenty-two of our bushels to the acre. The rye is estimated to produce about two more of our bushels to the acre than the buck-wheat; but this year, as is the case in England, rye falls considerably below an average crop. The turneps are the worst, because the most neglected of the three crops. The seed, instead of being of one kind, was red round, white round, tankard, and some other species, with which I was not acquainted, all mingled together. The plants were healthy and quite as thick as was necessary; but though the bulbs were formed, they had not been hoed, nor had even the harrows been drawn through to thin them. It is therefore impossible they should become a tolerable crop. This was the only deficiency I noticed, either on my companion's land, or in the track which we had spent two hours together in passing over. As far as I could judge, the portion of manure administered before the buck-wheat and rye, was small. I could not hit on any measure with which my companion was acquainted, that enabled me to reduce his quantities to cubic yards, or our common cart loads; but I was led to guess that not more than seven or eight of our Surry and Kent cart loads were applied to the acre. My informant, in a language between Dutch and German, but very intelligible to me, remarked, speaking of manure, "*wenig und ofters ist besser als viel und selten;*" a little frequently is better than much and seldom. I observed the farm yards and the hogsties, were well bedded with a fine sand, but that very little straw was applied to be converted into manure. There can be no doubt but such sand will imbibe and retain the fæces of the animals; but it may be doubted, if so much ammonia is administered to the land by this mode as by the putrefactive fermentation which is pro-

duced by the abundance of straw, that is trodden in with the exuviæ in our English farm yards.' (P. 48—50.)

2. *Dykes*.—'The road I had hitherto travelled was on the top of the dykes which confine within the canals the whole water of the country. As far as my eye could determine, these dykes are on the side towards the fields, about thirteen or fourteen feet in height, but varying according to the elevation or depression of the land. The slope from the top to the bottom forms an angle about forty-five degrees. I thought them about twenty four feet wide at the top, and if both sides sloped equally, they would be somewhat more than double that width at the bottom. The inner side, however, borders a canal, which is usually from four to six feet in depth. The bottom of the canal must, consequently, be from six to eight feet higher than the level of the surrounding fields. From this situation of the water above the land, it will be readily conceived, that great solicitude must exist to maintain the dykes in good condition; and that the expense of clearing the fields of the floods, by pumping the water to such height must be enormous. The dykes are formed, and kept in repair, by bundles of willows interlaced, so as to form a slanting wall, and the interstices are filled with earth well puddled, and thereby rendered compact. The expense of maintaining the dykes is supported by a tax laid on the surrounding lands, which is levied by commissioners, according to long established usage, in such manner as to create little discontent, and scarcely any suspicion of unfairness. The expenditure in human labour is great, but is much exceeded by the cost of the willows, though they grow near the places where they are wanted, in very extensive plantations.' (P. 15.)

'One of the richest tracts of country in the vicinity of Arnhem has been often exposed to tremendous inundations. These are frequently felt at the breaking up of a long frost; but in no instance so calamitously as in the winter 1808-9. A violent tempest from the north-west had raised the waters

of the Zuyder sea, some feet above the highest mark of the spring tides, and the waves beat with unusual violence against the dykes, constructed to break their fury. The thaw on the Upper Rhine had increased the quantity and the force of its waters, which brought down masses of ice fourteen feet in height, and more than half a mile in length; to which the embankments, softened by the thaw, and somewhat injured, presented an insufficient barrier. A breach made in one part soon extended itself, and the torrent quickly covered the country, bearing before it by its force, the villages, the inhabitants, and the cattle. The height of the Zuyder sea prevented the water from finding an outlet; and it consequently remained on the ground for a long period, in spite of the exertions of the surviving inhabitants. By this event, more than seventy houses were totally destroyed, a far greater number irretrievably damaged, and of nine hundred families, more than five hundred were rendered utterly destitute; more than four hundred dead bodies were left on the borders of the current, and at the city of Arnhem, five hundred persons, mostly women and children, with many hundred head of cattle, were rescued from a watery grave, by the hazardous heroism of the inhabitants, who ventured in boats to their rescue.' (P. 57, 58.)

' In the Seven Provinces, which are usually distinguished by the name of Holland, from the most important of the number, there is still kept alive a chivalrous spirit of independence; there exist recollections and associations, which recall the patriotic minds to the periods when their ancestors resisted the power of Spain in its zenith, contended with England for the dominion of the seas, and, with proudly remembered triumphs, checked the ambitious hopes of the Grand Monarque. The numerous monuments in their churches to the memory of their heroes, and the trophies that their public buildings display, have kept alive this spirit; the late conduct of their fleet before Algiers, and the praises conferred

on it by our Exmouth, have blown into a flame a spark, which French oppression had never totally extinguished.

‘ In Belgium, on the other hand, the name of independence has for three centuries been unheard; submission to masters over whom they had no check, by whom a forced obedience was required, and who administered none of those consoling flatteries which the most rigid despots find it necessary to use towards their subjects, was their sole duty, and in that duty they were fully instructed. Instead of investigating they submitted, instead of inquiring they yielded, and thus sunk in mental acquirements, to a state in which they were fitted to be either the instruments or the subjects of oppression, as best suited the purposes of those governors who happened to obtain authority over them. Of every religion we should speak with respect; but whilst that of Holland was reasonable, sincere, and tolerant, that of Belgium was even below the general level of the corrupt church, of which they formed the most irrational part, in every thing that was childish, superstitious, and persecuting.’ (P. 71, 72.)

‘ The high reputation of Amtman Meyer, who resides about eight miles from Hanover, induced me to visit his establishment, where I was not so fortunate as to meet the proprietor, who had been described to me as the most scientific agriculturist in the vicinity. His amt was still more extensive than that of Calenburg, and included within the area, besides his dwelling, and those of the superintendents of his farm and the barns, stables, sheep-house and cattle-stalls, a very neat church. The land round this establishment shows more abundant marks of good cultivation, and more proofs of the liberal application of manure, than I had before witnessed in Hanover.

‘ The *kohl-ruben* had attained a good size, and were flourishing, whilst a considerable breadth of the *mangel-wurzel* was growing: but both of these crops appeared to me not sufficiently hoed to give the roots space to extend to the dimen-

sions which they would attain by a different mode of culture. I observed here the first stack of clover-hay that had met my sight since I entered Germany. Around the borders of some fields were small patches of tobacco, such as I had indeed before noticed in the course of my rides. I was told the quality of it was bad, and too weak for any but boys to smoke it. They seem to learn this abominable practice at a very early age. I was surprised one day, by being asked by a shepherd boy, of whom I had made some inquiry, and who appeared not more than twelve years of age, if I could give him any fire, or the materials for supplying him with it, as he had lost either his flint or his steel, and could not light his pipe.

‘Contrary to the usual course in such establishments, the cows here are farmed to a Dutch dairy-man, who professes to make butter and cheese of the same kind as is produced in Holland. The cows, from ninety to one hundred, are let to him for one thousand rix dollars annually. In the summer months they are depastured on the meadow lands, by the side of the river. In the winter, they are allowed ten pounds of hay, and fourteen pounds of straw, daily. I heard sad lamentations on the dryness of the present summer, of the want of food on the meadows, and the consequent scarcity and poverty of the milk. The contrivances of the Dutchmen to save labour, were very admirable. The milk and cream were in a cool cellar, the butter was churned by a very simple machine worked by a wheel, in the apartment at the top of the house; this was turned by a boy, and by it one hundred pounds of butter were at some seasons made daily, in about two hours. The presses for the cheese were worked by the same machine which churned the butter.

‘The attempt to make various kinds of cheese from the same land is necessarily futile. Cheese denominated Swiss, Dutch, Cheshire, and Gloucester, is made by this man. I tasted each, but could perceive no similarity to those of ei-

ther of the districts by the names of which they were distinguished, nor any great difference betwixt one and another; for all, if not absolutely bad, were at least very indifferent.' (P. 123—125.)

ART. III.—*Self-Cultivation, Recommended, or Hints to a Youth leaving school.* By Isaac Taylor, Minister of the Gospel at Ongar. Republished by Wells and Lilly, Boston, 1820.

THIS is a discreet and sensible essay on practical education; and although not remarkable for depth or novelty of thought, is calculated to do good, by inculcating in a pleasing style many truths that cannot be too often told, nor too deeply impressed on the mind of pupils and preceptors.

The preface explains the aim and scope of the work as follows:

'It may prevent misapprehension in the reader, and consequent disappointment, to state distinctly the object of the present volume. It is not an attempt to depreciate the instruction which schools are intended to give; nor by any means to institute a mode of self tuition, which shall render them needless. The *self-cultivation* recommended, is rather intended to *render them complete*.

'It is a very common mistake, which the author has found extremely detrimental to youthful improvement;—that masters are to teach their pupils; and that the whole burden of education lies on the tutor. That the thoughtless, volatile young, should take up such a notion, is no wonder: but the manner in which many teachers operate, seems to intimate that they also make the same mistake; for all their teaching is *telling*; substituting the means for the end. That teaching is alone efficient which is connected with *doing*. The pupil must not be a mere recipient, a listener; but an actor, if he would even comprehend the lesson; if especially he would make that morsel of knowledge his own.

‘ This mistake is not, however, the exact object of this address; but rather, one consequent upon it: which is, *that when a child leaves school, his education is finished*. A notion destructive of all real improvement; which steals from the mind almost all it had gained; and as it prevails totally or partially, prevents so far, all future improvement, all actual excellence.

‘ That such an idea does obtain, is perhaps within the recollection of most of us; lies under our observation, as far as the young surround us; and becomes the main obstacle to our wishes for their improvement, wherever their improvement is connected with our own labour, anxiety, and comfort.

‘ To prove, therefore, to the young, that their education is not finished, but only begun when they quit school; that all their hopes for honourable excellence must rest on their own exertions; that now especially their exertions promise successful issue; to rouse the noble determination of acting well: of putting forth mental energies on principle: this forms the single object of the following pages.

‘ If those who are still under tuition, should peruse the work and imbibe the spirit of it, it is hoped their present opportunities may be made more advantageous; but, put into the hands of such as have just left their tutors; should it engage them to become tutors to themselves, it is presumed then its application is more appropriate, and its beneficial effects may be hoped for to their greatest extent.

‘ With this hope it is, that SELF-CULTIVATION has been placed in a variety of lights, and its importance and efficiency delineated. To generate the principle is the first object. Should this endeavour be favourably received, some of the means most likely to guide in the process, may be developed in a future volume.

‘ May the present appeal forcibly impress the importance of the enterprize; the important enterprize will then be begun;

and much may be hoped from its progress during life:—its completion must be watched for in another world.'

We pass to his second chapter 'On the different sources of Instruction.'

'WHERE did you learn this? is a question sometimes not easy to be answered. The true reply if given, would point out sources of instruction which we had never considered as such. Perhaps the most important principles of action, the most efficient rules, and motives and habits, if rightly traced, will show, that not in one school but in several, we have taken our degrees; not from ostensible masters, but by gratuitous instruction; not from a parent's care, but by some servant's villany, we became thus knowing. To be aware beforehand, how such knowledge may be obtained or avoided will have its use.

'Much of course may be attributed to the direct instruction received from masters, and schools, and the various tasks set us in them. So much given to be learned by rote, and that every day, must leave some traces of knowledge on the dullest mind. As the memory of children seems peculiarly retentive, it is a benefit to have had it stored with ideas, if they are but tolerably good and appropriate. Yet want of interest in the instruction given, occasions great inattention to it, and absurd misapprehension concerning it. It will be well if any thing remains sufficiently correct and impressive to become of actual service in life. Unless self-cultivation be early begun, which may seize, correct, and fix such floating notions, the chance is much against their permanency and effective usefulness.

'Learning by rote is likely to be more useful, when the tutor has skill, patience, and fatherly feeling enough to engage him to add personal explanation and examination. Difficulties are sometimes cleared by a word. The truth is pointed out, and its importance impressed, by a single question, an

inquisitive look, or a marked emphasis; while the kindness with which such a mode implies will engage attention, and thereby rouse the youth's own powers:—the principle most important to success. Very favourable have been their opportunities, who, beyond the daily routine of tasks and duties, have enjoyed the *viva voce* lessons of an elegant mind, devoted to the labour of education, and stimulated by every symptom of success. If, indeed, vacant inattention, or the spirit of hardened obstinacy, ruled over those precious moments, the lessons, however excellent, could make but little impression; and should the same disposition remain, that self-cultivation should be roused to operate on such instruction can scarcely be expected.

‘ In many cases the instruction given at schools has been premature. Not all children of the same age, or the same standing, are equally forward: and if all are expected to receive the same specific lesson, the effect cannot be beneficial. All instruction requires some previous knowledge to receive it. If the lesson be given, therefore, before the mind is sufficiently opened to comprehend its meaning, it will not be received. The whole will be lost; or the part retained, for want of its corresponding parts, will become an absurd and useless notion.

‘ Will it be any wonder, then, if all the time and expense bestowed on schools and masters, produce but a small stock of knowledge:—if the parent be eventually disappointed, by the little attainment made; and the scholar disappointed too, in feeling himself not competent for the situations he is called to occupy. Perhaps he leaves his tutors with a rooted aversion against them, and against all knowledge: an aversion which cleaves to him through life, and grows with every experience of inability. Not able to rise to the various occasions before him, he fixes himself, with a sort of valiant obstinacy in some redoubt of ignorance; and affects to laugh at all who strive after an excellence which he is now determin-

ed never to aim at. A lost character this. Intellectuality is frozen up. The mind dozes and snores; or, if at all roused, it is to set itself a-kimbo against instruction, and finally to resist and resent every attempt to communicate useful or honourable emulation.

‘In spite of every reluctance during the years of school, and although much time was lost in things which are not effectively learned, or which, if learned, would never have been actually of use; yet will small remnants and shreds of knowledge be brought away. Something is forced into the most resisting mind by incessant endeavour: something seen or heard, or parrot-like learned by rote, retains its impression, and becomes perhaps the seed of increasing discernment. Should self-cultivation begin, however late, her necessary occupations, these trifles, mis-shapen, partial, and scanty as they are, will be of excellent use; the mind, when it begins to operate, will work upon them, and, almost unconscious of where and how it came by such ideas, will find them, use them, and be set forwards by the means to much advantage.

‘Imperious circumstances, however, teach much more than masters do; and forcing the attention, fix the knowledge so gained in a much more indelible manner. “I will,” and “I won’t,” are favourite expressions with inconsiderate boys. While mere boys, disgraceful as are such expressions, they may pass: but the first step taken after school is over, meets with as positive and more powerful “you shall” and “you sha’nt.” Nothing remains, after a little ineffectual struggling, but a compromise. The doughty resolve is deferred in its execution; becomes less and less frequently resorted to: a sort of compliance becomes habitual, and an artificial pliability is superinduced, upon some of the most obstinate. The lesson might have been more easily learned; but as it must be learned, the sooner the better, whatever be the means.

‘The world is not so compliant as our fond parents; it cares little for our feelings, less for our whims, and it will

have its way. He who romps and tears about the parlour, as his own vagaries impel him, despising all rule and decency, must, if he come into the street, go with the crowd; after a little jostling, and shoving, and grumbling, he is obliged to mind whose toes he treads on; whose sides he elbows; he is forced to take care, or he will himself be cuffed and scoffed at, perhaps trampled under foot. No remonstrance could teach economy at one time; but straits and difficulties force in the necessary art of calculation, the easy method of taking care and saving. Impatience is constrained for its own sake to command itself, as the easiest, the only way, of preventing patience from being utterly worn out. Good manners, neglected so long, are courted now as the necessary passport to good company. Docility takes place of obstreperous resistance, as giving less trouble in circumstances which cannot be altered or avoided. It is well when something is found of sufficient power to force that mind which is unwilling to act: when desultory caprice is bound down to regularity; when indolence is roused and stimulated to at least the usual routine of daily employment. Call the occasion hard, call the person an enemy: the occasion is excellent, the person befriends us much, by which we are brought into action, and such exertions are produced as may attain some useful object.

“I should like to be this,”—“I had rather be that,” says the unsettled, ineffective mind. What would be the result of such oscillation, if left without any sufficient impetus, but a total cessation of all action? It is well when some irresistible circumstance arises to say,—“you shall be neither the one nor the other. Here is a path opened before you; walk in it.” The caprice must be given up, the dislike overcome, the reluctant powers shall take the shape appointed and must expand in the only way left them. Many a character is thus saved from ruin; by what was regarded as a destructive circumstance. Obligated to learn, learning in that mode became easy, and after a while even pleasant. The lessons are appro-

priate to the wants and situation, and their intrinsic value recommends them to adoption. The knowledge is indeed forced in, but its own usefulness makes it to be received with a welcome, and retained with pleasure.

‘When the eyes are thus imperiously constrained to one object, much that was thought true concerning happiness appears to be false; and much that was despised as the dream of doting parents is found to be serious fact. Much which was felt unpleasant, by habit becomes bearable; nay, beauties or advantages are discovered, to make it desirable every way. Employment shapes the mind, the temper is moulded by the circumstances, and the character is gradually formed, fixed, polished; till the man ranks among his species as decidedly something, as something honourable and eminent.

‘Weighty motives may have much influence, even where the necessity is not so imperious. To be swayed by proper motives is the characteristic of a rational creature. If a youth deserves so to be ranked, he will learn the lessons of wisdom, when presented in so suitable a mode. He puts off the boy, from the forcible persuasion that something more manly now becomes him. When a person sees what ought to be, what must be, all that is in him of propriety and steadiness, will incline him to accommodate his conduct to the demands of his situation. None but the inconsiderate will so far disregard their own welfare as to refuse to learn what becomes necessary to them. Soon is it discovered, that something must be settled upon, some line of life adopted; and the appropriate knowledge must be gained, the suitable habits formed. The mind turns into that channel; stores up the maxims found to be important, and begins to assume some honourable shape. The only means in a parent’s power will show the path which must be taken: the forcible necessity of considering a parent’s comfort, or providing support, will bring all the affectionate feelings to bear upon the point, and induce the mind to take the proper resolution. Affection will make that smooth and

easy, which in its nature may not be pleasant; and will reward toil and suffering in a manner which will take off their bitterness. If by such motives the mind is actuated to choose to follow, to labour, in some distinct and effective mode; it is also trained by their operation to feel sensations the most conducive to happiness, and to act upon principles highly honourable to character. Even the effect of common custom is not small in forming character. Too powerful, indeed, is it in biasing the mind to evil, when the customs common are immoral. Where there is no pernicious tendency, this influence is as salutary as it is powerful. What others do, we feel to be attainable, to be necessary. Not to do the same, is in some degree disgraceful; as it implies want of capacity, of steady application, or of regulating principle.

‘ Motives such as these have great influence in pointing out what ought to be learned, and in engaging that attention which is needful to the attaining the necessary knowledge. One consideration of this nature will instruct the docile mind very powerfully; will rouse it to fit itself for action; to take the shape needful for the occasion; to fix the prime attention on topics hitherto deemed dull, and to accustom to habits which the volatile call laborious. The mind is brought into exertion, the thing needed for real attainment; it is impelled by a motive felt sufficient; the activity takes a suitable direction. Its own acts are always gratifying; what it gains by self-exertion, will appear to be valuable, will be felt to be important. And though some false estimates may occur, yet by degrees better ability is attained, real knowledge is stored up, traits of character are formed, and the man rises into view disburdened of the boy, and glowing with riper judgment and more honourable feelings.

‘ That example teaches better than precept, is so obvious as to be become an adage. Much is the character of the young influence, formed, exalted, or ruined, by such instruction. Could we distinctly trace them, many of our sentiments, and the points which form our character, would be found to have

taken their rise from direct or unconscious imitation of those among whom we began to move. Happy is it for the young when the examples before their eyes are worthy of imitation: when, especially, some one example of honourable and successful mental energy is near enough to be distinctly discerned and carefully studied. Powerful is such influence; salutary in its effect, and highly useful in forming the emulative young to sentiments and habits of excellence. Some virtues seem almost beyond attainment; but if their actual existence is discerned, fostered, eminent, and shining, in some living characters, then indolence hardly durst say that the thing cannot be done. Honourable station, won as the reward of talent and useful exertion, will stimulate to similar endeavours; and give an ardor which will not be discouraged, and which shall not be disappointed. That steady consistency of character which arises from fixed principles and powerful motives assumed into action, is often derived from the accidental sight, but better still if from the constant contemplation of one whose success points out the road, and the means of similar advantages. Under the influence of such powerful instruction, ideas are roused and raised of great importance to future life: notions which only floated loose in the mind become fixed principles: virtuous dispositions are strengthened, and become able to resist the silly laugh of unthinking characters: and habits become established in a manner which may greatly support right conduct in difficult seasons.

It must not be forgotten, that strong as is the efficacy of example, it is not always good example which catches the attention, and influences the mind, and feelings, and habits of the young. To the ruin of many a fair prospect in life, of many a lovely character, as the first blossoms seemed to promise, postiferous example, like a blight or mildew, has in one moment come across and destroyed all the fond hopes of the broken hearted parents. It is baleful to a young mind to perceive that certain hateful crimes are possible; that persons

live in criminal indulgences, who nevertheless maintain a fair character, and are received into what is called good company. All familiarity with such immoralities, tends to take off that horror at sin, which unpractised minds find to be a considerable preservative against it. Slight compliance will now and then be yielded to; and when once this awful lesson is learned, who can say how deep a proficient in vice, the tyro may become? By slow degrees, perhaps, but in a manner dreadfully certain, the best feelings are blunted, the better habits are broken in upon, the character soon becomes deteriorated. Principles are forgotten, checks of conscience no longer rise, or rise ineffectually. Insidious vice, which here and there penetrated and undermined principle, comes on some occasion as an inundation, and sweeps the whole mound away, or wears such a breach at least as permits continual damage. From being suffered, vice, under the fostering influence of example, becomes adopted; is heartily cultivated. The allurements which once filled with disgust, attract the now corrupted taste. Continued example leads to emulative viciousness, and with heorical boldness are the most desperate schemes of atrocity brooded over, hatched, and brought into open day. How is the dreadful instruction imbibed? What no precept could have effected, is gradually produced by insinuating example, and where the influence does not take effect to such alarming degree, yet the evil produced is always something: something to be dreaded and guarded against with the utmost care, by such as watch with anxiety the powers which most effectually combine to form and fix the growing character.

‘Possibly more than we are aware of, will the actual character receive its form and value from some accidental words, spoken with, and sometimes without, particular intention. The young mind feels their power, and acts ever after under their influence. A kiss of approbation, given by a fond mother, at sight of a juvenile drawing, done at stolen opportu-

nities, by West, when a child, fixed his growing inclination to the arts. "That kiss made me a painter," has he often said. One word of encouragement has frequently by inspiring hope, stimulated to the requisite exertions. A prognostication of future eminence has half occasioned its own fulfilment, by setting the object full in view, and rousing the delighted imagination with the foretasted enjoyment of destined honours. A small success, in itself a trifle, shall, by being noticed and approved, so seem to place the greater success within reach, that the ardent mind feels as if a little more only, and the whole will be obtained. This little more will indeed show the falsity of such hope, but it will also by nearer approximation increase the impetus, and eventually ensure the success. A sneer shall sometimes check, most unfortunately check, rising endeavour; will give the timorous mind to fear it never can excel, or rouse the proud mind to determine it will rather give up all than endure such sneer again for endeavours which must be imperfect. Emulation is nipped in the bud, and perhaps never do the powers recover the benumbing effect of one foolish sarcasm. If indeed the sarcasm were directed against some folly, some attempt at unworthily excelling, becoming eminent in criminality; then its influence is beneficial. There are those who have been saved from all the shameful preeminence of low buffoonery, by a contemptuous smile, or a serious hint of caution. Those who think a single word can be of no avail, greatly mistake: it may give light and afford a clue, the only thing needed in some cases to direct exertion, and ensure success. It may cheer under present difficulties, and stimulate the rising mind to effective labours. Not the whip, but a mere chirrup, will encourage the generous steed to perseverance: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it! Those who are apt to speak words at random, without considering what may be the effect of a silly sentence, should take this hint; and be on their guard, lest they do irreparable mischief. And such

as have only opportunity to drop a hint, or even dart a look of intelligence, may be encouraged to their tiny endeavours: a single seed may take root, and show at least its own excellence; perhaps become a store in future years.

‘ By many ways, then, is the character expanded. By many ways is the mass of knowledge gained. There is scarcely any day passes without some impression, good or bad, being made. Some seed sown, which in future life shall spring up: well if it be the principal wheat. But how often do the unsightly and pestiferous weeds appear, intermingling with, perhaps overpowering the better crop! we sigh, and say an enemy hath done this. Whatever dwells on the mind, becomes a maxim, inspires dread, or raises a wish; will have a powerful influence on coming days, and will do much towards forming the man. The notion which is deeply impressed, will find its time for action; the fact which has been practically explained, will never be forgotten; that knowledge cannot be torn away from the memory, nor its influence on the heart hindered. The habit formed by indolence, by mere custom, by insidious or virtuous design, will continue; and imprint itself deeper and yet deeper on the pliant mind. The mass of knowledge or feeling of principle or conduct, will be the result of many lessons, gathered from various and often unsuspected sources.

‘ Yet powerful as will be the effect produced by these differing modes of instruction, one much more powerful remains to be considered:—that which is the professed purpose of this volume to recommend; even *self-cultivation*. Whatever of the former modes may take effect without this assistance, will be found not to be excellent, but feeble; not to be virtuous, but vicious: for this principle must be put in exercise, or nothing will be gained worth having. No power can compel the mind; it must act itself. Vice cannot be forced into it against its own will. Indolently at least it solicits, or actively it cultivates the baleful gratification. No wonder then,

if virtuous principle, if useful knowledge, require active reception and diligent cultivation; and that by the mind itself. Weeds will grow apace, grow merely by negligence; but plants of value, of delicacy, of fragrance, or of clustered fruitfulness, demand all the fostering care, watchfulness, and support which the owner can give them: and the more liberal he is in his daily attention, the more abundant will be his satisfaction, or increase, in their prosperity. There is a selection to be made, which can only be done by one's self; which sentiment shall be adopted; for various and even opposite ones will offer. Habits will solicit indulgence; some of which must be resisted, and others cultivated. Paths of knowledge will open; the vista may appear delightfully inviting, which will in fact only bewilder or lead astray. The mind itself must judge in order to which it must examine, determine, and act accordingly. Such action, such careful examination, is the very process recommended. One maxim ascertained by one's self, will give more real knowledge than twenty demonstrated by others, even though done much more adroitly. Self-cultivation works to better purpose. Without her aid, nearly all that others do is lost; with her effective delightful labour, much is gained, and gained to purpose; fastened, stored up, placed ready for use, and often resorted to in the actual business of life.'

The remainder of the volume, of which we have extracted only one *seventh* part, is much in the same strain. On the whole it may be a useful *home* school book, and being small and not expensive, deserves for those reasons, among others, to find favour as such.

ART. IV.—*Epitaph on the late Dr. Samuel Stanhope Smith.*

Suggested by the Rev. Dr. Miller, Professor of Theology
at Princeton.

Hoc tumulo conditur
Quod mortale fuit Viri admodum reverendi
SAMUELIS STANHOPE SMITH, S. T. D. L. L. D.
Nuper Collegii Neo-Cæsariensis Præsidis,
Et ejusdem
Sacrosanctæ Theologiæ et Philosophiæ Moralis Professoris.
Natus Pequeæ, Pennsylvaniensium, A. D. MDCCL,
Evangelii Ministri insignio Filius, ipse insignior;
Literis humanioribus in Aulâ Nassovicâ imbutus;
In eadem Tutor tres annos;
Ordinibus Sacris initiatus, A. D. MDCCLXX.
Academici Hampden-Sydnensis, apud Virginienses,
Fundator et Primus Rector;
Inde revocatus ejus Almâ Matre, ad munus Professoris,
A. D. MDCCLXXIX;
Vice-Præses creatus, A. D. MDCCLXXXVI;
Denique Præsidis dignitate exornatus, A. D. MDCCXCV:
Quibus muniis omnibus præclaris et gravissimis,
Satisfecit,
Quanta ipsius laude, quantoque bono publico,
Alumni permulti studiosi et sibi devinctissimi,
Ubique testantur.
Sed, eheu! aliis inserviando ipse consumitur.
Laboribus fractus assiduus, morbisque creberrimis,
Sceptrum Academicum alteri dedit, A. D. MDCCCXII.
Tandem languore lento paulatim confectus,
Animam Deo placide reddidit die 21mo. Augi. A. D. MDCCCXIX.
Ætatis suæ LXX.
Theologiâ, Philosophiâ, omnique doctrinâ excultus:
In docendo peritus, in scribendo ornatus,
In concionando perpolitus, gravis et valde disertus;
Saluti, honori, emolumento Reipublicæ maximè deditus;
Beneficentiâ, hospitalitate, urbanitate, venustate præstans;
Ecclesiæ, Patriæ, Literarum, Collegii Decus.
Hocce Marmor,
In memoriam operarum ejus, dotumque eximiarum,
Et reverentiæ suæ,
Curatores Collegii Neo-Cæsariensis
Ponendum atque inscribendum curaverunt.

ART. V.—*On the Employment of Common Salt for the Purposes of Horticulture.* By Samuel Parkes, F. L. S., &c.

[This Essay, extracted from the Horticultural Memoirs of Edinburgh, was rewarded by the prize medal of the Caledonian Horticultural Society, for 1819.]

As a science, *Horticulture* is comparatively but of a modern date. It was unknown both in Greece and in ancient Rome; for in all the accounts which we have of the baths, the grottos, and the aqueducts, which were considered so ornamental to their cities, there is, I believe, nothing described which conveys any idea whatever of our modern gardens. The Britons, like the Romans and the ancient Germans made use of herbs and fruits; but, according to Strabo, they were such as grew in the fields and woods, without cultivation. Indeed it has often been questioned, whether the hanging-gardens of Babylon, of which so much has been said, were not more for the display of an original kind of architecture, or for the ostentatious exhibition of ornamental and expensive sculptures, and enormous idols of gold and silver, than for any purposes of real utility.

Even in the Augustan age, when the wines of Italy were in general estimation, little was known of the true method of cultivating the vine, as appears from a story which is recorded by Pliny. He relates that a celebrated grammarian, who lived in the reign of Tiberius,* bought a vineyard, which had been so much neglected by its former owner, that it had become almost barren; and that when, by care and attention, he had rendered it fruitful, his neighbours, who had no idea that trees could be so improved by cultivation, and whose

* In a century or two after this period, it is probable that the Romans had acquired more knowledge of the management of vineyards; for we read that, about A. D. 278, the settlers in Britain, finding that some parts of the Island were not unfit for vineyards, obtained permission from the emperor Probus to plant vines here, and make wine from their produce.

vineyards had always been much less productive, propagated a story that he had procured such unusual crops by the arts of magic and sorcery.*

It likewise appears from a variety of testimony, that the ancients were equally ignorant of the methods of rearing shrubs, herbs, and plants. Such of these as were cultivated, were preserved merely for the purposes of medicine; and though the medical professors had this stimulus, their knowledge of varieties seems to have been very limited. Theophrastus, a writer of great credit, who carefully collected plants as well as minerals, and who collected not only those of Greece, but travelled in Egypt, Ethiopia, and Arabia, for the improvement of science, was able to obtain only 600 species. M. Rollin, however, tells us, that when, by order of Pope Nicholas V. in the middle of the 14th century, a translation of the work of Theophrastus was printed, the physicians of that day, perhaps the only class of men who attended to the orders of plants, were so dissatisfied with the narrow limits of botanical knowledge, that resolutions were taken to go in quest of it to the very places whence Theophrastus and others of the ancients had written. He adds, that in consequence of these decisions, voyages were made to the islands of the Archipelago, to Palestine, to Arabia, and to Egypt; and these expeditions were attended with so much success, that in the beginning of the 16th century, the learned were in possession of the description, not of 600 only, but of more than 6,000 plants, with engraved figures of each.†

It seems, however, that botany did not obtain much of the appearance of a science until the beginning of the last century, when Louis XIV, with the munificence becoming a great prince, commissioned Mons. Tournefort to make a botanical excursion through many of the provinces of Asia and

* Pliny, lib. xiv. c. 3.

† Rollin's History of Arts and Sciences of the ancients, vol. iii.

Africa, to collect plants, and to make observations upon natural history in general. This great man received the king's order in the year 1700, and although he was driven home in 1702, by the fear of the plague which then raged in Egypt, he brought home so many new plants, that he could enumerate 1,356 distinct species, without including any on those which he had collected in his former travels.

The learned throughout Europe were proud of these achievements, and Tournefort was considered to be one of the greatest ornaments of France. In England, however, we had the excellent and eminent John Ray, a man whom we had equal reason to value and admire, who indeed rather preceded Tournefort, and was equally assiduous in his endeavours to promote the knowledge of plants. In consequence of the exertions of this great man, and of the methodical arrangements which he had formed of the vegetable kingdom, together with the subsequent labours of Boerhaave, Linnæus, Hudson, and others, botany, about the middle of the last century, assumed a distinguished rank among the sciences of Europe.

Such are the fruits of industry, when directed by taste and by the energies of an enlarged mind; but the discovery and arrangement of new plants were not the only benefits that were achieved by the exertions of a succession of great men, all directed to the attainment of one important object; for with the knowledge of plants, the want of gardens increased;* and as these became more common, the public gradually ac-

* I am aware that there were gardens in Great Britain before the Norman conquest, belonging to the monks, but the inhabitants in general had not this useful luxury. There were also large vineyards here in the 12th century. William of Malmesbury says, that the grapes produced in the vale of Gloucester were of the sweetest taste, and made most excellent wines, but these were likewise the property of the great barons, the monks, and abbots: for the general inhabitants of the country participated neither in the credit nor profit which was attached to these establishments.

quired a taste for planting, until the desire of possessing a garden became general throughout Europe.

The changes which this produced in society were many and important; and, I have no doubt that, a person now travelling through Europe, and making this one of the objects of his inquiry, would find the character of each people more or less favourable, according to the degree in which a taste for gardening prevails among them. Were I asked to enumerate the causes which produced that increase of civilization, which has gradually taken place during the last two or three centuries, I should most certainly place the introduction of gardening next to the invention of printing. The possession of a garden has a natural tendency to soften the character of the most ferocious; it attaches a man to home, and doubles the value of his habitation; and whenever its cultivation is engaged in with ardour, it not only affords an innocent means of occupying leisure hours, but it has also the important effect of diverting the attention from all low and unworthy pursuits.

Buffon, the celebrated French naturalist, was so enamoured of his garden, that he erected a pavilion within it, in which he could study with convenience. There he usually retired at five o'clock in the morning, and was then inaccessible. Prince Henry of Prussia named this sylvan retreat the 'cradle of natural history.' The illustrious lord Bacon has pronounced gardening to be the 'purest of human pleasures, and the greatest refreshment to the spirit of man.'

The dissemination of a taste for gardening is, in my opinion, one of the most valuable effects of the establishment of all horticultural societies; and I have no doubt but that, in this way, the Caledonian Horticultural Society will be found to be eminently useful. While addressing the members of this respectable association, I hope I may be allowed to say, that I feel proud of having been enrolled among those whose efforts tend not only to the improvement of natural history,

and rural economy, but also to the promotion of moral habits and propensities. Penetrated with these feelings, I shall greatly rejoice if the following observations and collection of facts, upon a subject in which the public seem now to take considerable interest, should in any degree excite a general desire in others to further the important objects of the Society.

The subject which I have now chosen for discussion and investigation, is the application of *Common Salt to the purposes of Horticulture*, the several branches of which I propose to consider in the following order:

1st. That common salt, when applied in due proportion, has the effect of promoting the health and growth of vegetables.

2dly. That it has the property of rendering fruit trees and esculent plants unfit for the food or the habitation of worms and insects.

3dly. That common salt is one of the most efficacious substances that can be employed in a garden for the destruction of worms and insects; and,

4thly. That common salt may, with material advantage, be likewise used for the destruction of weeds, or other noxious vegetables.

Under the first division of our subject, it is to be observed, that the celebrated Dr. Darwin, when treating of common salt as a manure for land, asserts, that this substance 'is a stimulus which excites the vegetable absorbent vessels into greater action than usual, and that in a certain quantity, it increases their growth, by enabling them to take up more nourishment in a given time; and consequently, to perform their circulations and secretions with greater energy.' Sir Humphry Davy, from what he says in his *Agricultural Chemistry*, seems, on the other hand, to think it also probable, 'that common salt acts as a manure, by entering into the

composition of the plants, somewhat in the same manner as gypsum, phosphate of lime, and the alkalies.'

These opinions will be thought to have great weight; but as few persons, comparatively speaking, will be able to confirm them by their own experience, in consequence of the very limited attention that has hitherto been bestowed on the use of salt in horticulture, the more useful way, perhaps of treating this subject, will be to lay before the society the evidence of those practical men, who have already published the results of their experiments, and then to draw such conclusions as their communications may seem to justify.

Dr. Brownrigg, who, in the year 1748, published a valuable work '*On the Art of making Common Salt*,' makes the following statement

'Salt,' says he, 'contributes greatly to fructify the earth, and when properly used as a manure, affords ample nourishment to corn and other vegetables, and renders kingdoms rich and fertile, where it happens to abound in the soil.' p. 158.

Mr. Hollingshead, a gentleman of considerable fortune, who resided near Chorley in Lancashire, and spent many years in making experiments on the application of common salt as a manure, and who also made powerful efforts to obtain a repeal of the salt laws, published a few years before his death, a very interesting pamphlet on the subject. In this work, to which I am greatly indebted for much useful information, he relates, that 'when foul salt was permitted to the farmers duty-free, a person near Middlewich in Cheshire trenched his garden in autumn, mixing with the soil a quantity of foul salt. The following spring, it was dug or delved in the usual method, and planted with potatoes. The crop produced therefrom was such as far exceeded his most sanguine expectations. Twenty of the potatoes were produced, which weighed sixty pounds.'

Several other testimonies to the beneficial effects of common salt in the culture of the *potato* might be produced, but

I recollect none so decisive as that of Reverend Dr. Cartwright, which is published in the fourth volume of the *Communications to the Board of Agriculture*.

Having previously prepared a piece of land for the experiments, on the 14th of April 1804, a portion of the land was laid out in beds of one yard wide and forty yards long, twenty-four of which were manured in different ways; one of the beds had no manure, and fifteen of the beds had salt put upon them, in the proportion of a quarter of a peck to each bed. On the same day the whole was planted with potatoes, a single row in each bed; and that the experiment might be conducted with all possible accuracy, the same sets were planted in each bed. On the 21st of September, the potatoes were taken up, and the produce of each row was accurately ascertained; from which it appeared, that in every instance excepting one, where the salt was used, the crop was found to be superior; so that, of ten different manures, most of which are of known and acknowledged efficacy, salt proved superior to them all, one only excepted, *viz.*, chandlers graves; and that bed in which salt and soot were combined, produced of all others, the *best* crop. But the most singular circumstance, and that which has induced me to submit the relation of this experiment to the society, is, that where salt was used, whether by itself or in combination, the roots were entirely free from the scabbiness to which potatoes are often liable, and from which none of the other beds were altogether exempt, although there were in the same field nearly forty beds of potatoes, besides those which were planted for the sake of these experiments.

In the culture of the *turnep*, salt is also very efficacious. In the twenty-seventh volume of the *Annals of Agriculture* is a paper communicated by Davies Giddy, Esq., president of the Penzance Agricultural Society, which contains an account of some very important experiments on this subject. At Michaelmas 1790, Mr. Sickler, a member of the Society,

entered upon an estate, so much impoverished by the former tenant, as scarcely to return the value of the seed. In the spring of 1791, Mr. Sickler prepared two acres for turneps, which had borne seven crops of oats in succession. The last crop did not produce nine bushels on an acre. In the first week of April, the earth from the ditches was carried into the field, and laid in four piles; each received three cart-loads of sea-shell sand, and five bushels of salt. The earth from another ditch, chiefly consisting of the decayed soil, which had been taken off the ground in former tillage, was placed in three more piles, and each of these received also three cartloads of sand, but no salt, on account of the apparent richness of the earth. Half the field was manured with the four first piles; but the three last not being sufficient for the other half, what remained without manure was sown with salt, at the rate of ten bushels to an acre.

That part of the field where salt had been used, either mixed with earth or alone, produced about half a crop of turneps, but the crop totally failed where was no salt.

In 1792, three acres, which in 1791 had borne a crop of wheat, not exceeding twelve bushels on an acre, were ploughed before Christmas, and brought into fine tilth by midsummer following. On each acre were sown twenty bushels of salt, excepting that two ridges towards the middle of the field were purposely left without any salt; on these two ridges the turneps totally failed, but the remainder of the field produced a plentiful crop.

In 1793, four acres of land, completely worn out by successive tillage, were ploughed before Christmas; three acres were sown with salt, at the rate of twenty-five bushels, and the remaining acre with eighteen bushels, without any other manure. The crop was in general a good one, but visibly best where the greatest quantity of salt had been used. Since that time, crops of turneps have been raised, with equal success, by the use of salt; and in the severe winter of 1794-5,

it was observed that these turneps were much less injured by the frost, than others similarly treated and cultivated in the common way. The writer of the account suggests, that if turneps are less injured by frost when they are manured with salt, than when they are cultivated in the usual manner, it must indicate an extraordinary degree of health and vigour in the plant; but a single observation is insufficient to establish such a fact.

The free use of salt, in the culture of the *carrot*, has also been found very efficacious. The effect of enlarging the growth and consequently increasing the crop of all esculent vegetables, has long been known to all the gardeners in America. Sir John Sinclair likewise informs us, that drilled carrots grow well in a salted bed, the salt being laid under the surface, in the centre of the intervals between the rows, and at some distance from the roots, in such manner, that it may be dissolved before the fibres of the roots meet it. See *Husbandry of Scotland*, second edition, vol. ii. Appendix, p. 182.

Some years ago, Baron Humboldt discovered that a weak solution of any of the oxymuriatic salts has the property of accelerating and increasing the growth of vegetables. This effect is probably owing to the circumstance of the exymuriates being converted by exposure to the air into common muriates. It might, however, be within the scope of your society's plan and intentions to offer premiums to such gardeners as would willingly make farther experiments on bleachers' residuum, an article which may be had for little or nothing, and which, if divested of the sulphate and muriate of manganese, which is always contained in it, would doubtless prove a very powerful and beneficial manure.

A gardener of considerable celebrity at Chorley in Lancashire, of the name of Beck, made use of common salt in his extensive gardens for upwards of thirty years, especially upon his *onions*; and he found that the application of this salt very

far surpassed that of all other manures. He never took any care to ascertain the exact quantity of salt which he employed; but when he was questioned as to this point, he said, that he thought he was accustomed to use it in the proportion of about sixteen bushels to an acre of land. His practice was to sow the salt immediately after he had covered in the seed; a point which should always be attended to, because it has been found, that, if the salt be sown after the plants show themselves above ground, the whole crop will inevitably be destroyed. On the contrary, if a moderate quantity of salt be sown upon the land as soon as the onion seed is deposited in the ground, say about six pounds to one square perch of land, or four ounces to a square yard, the result will not fail to be striking and advantageous.

The general failure of the onions last year has been much spoken of, but I do not hear of a single gardener that employed salt who had not a very abundant crop. As a corroboration of this, I may infer to the letter of Mr. William Morton of Biel, which was read to our Society on the 8th of September last, and which states the benefits he had derived from the use of brine, made by the solution of common salt in water, and which he had applied to his beds of onions, shallots, and other roots. I shall, however have occasion, before I conclude this address, again to refer to Mr. Morton's letter.

Seeing that common salt produces such striking effects in the culture of potatoes, turneps, carrots, onion, shallots, &c. I cannot help being surprised that it has not been brought into general use long since, especially as I observe, that more than 200 years ago, the lord Chancellor Bacon, in the most unequivocal manner, recommended its employment in the practice of horticulture. His words are these; 'several herbs, such as radish, beet, rue, pennyroyal, like best being watered with salt water; and I advise the extension of this trial to some other herbs, especially those which are strong, such as

mustard, rocket and the like.—*Lord Bacon's Natural History.* I must, however, now proceed to the consideration of the effect of salt in the cultivation of fruits.

The action of common salt upon *fruit-trees*, when judiciously applied, is equally beneficial. In cider countries it has been the practice on some estates, where the owners have been ambitious to have fine orchards, to dig a small trench a few yards distant from each apple-tree, and to put within it a small quantity of salt, which, by means of the rain, becomes dissolved, and is gradually conveyed to the roots of the trees. This practice is said to increase the quantity of the fruit, and to preserve the trees in the utmost health and vigour.

Mr. Hollingshead, whom I have before mentioned, and who studied this subject for many years, remarks, that 'those farmers who reside near the sea-shore, might derive considerable advantage from watering their grounds with sea-water, or sowing them with sand from the beach, below high water-mark, during the spring and autumn, as the particles of salt contained therein would be a great benefit. *Fruit-trees*,' says he, 'and the hop plant should also be sprinkled with sea-water, or have salt or sea-sand laid about them at some distance from their stems. The cotton-tree and sugarcane, in the West Indies, would also derive considerable advantage from this mode of treatment.' p. 21.

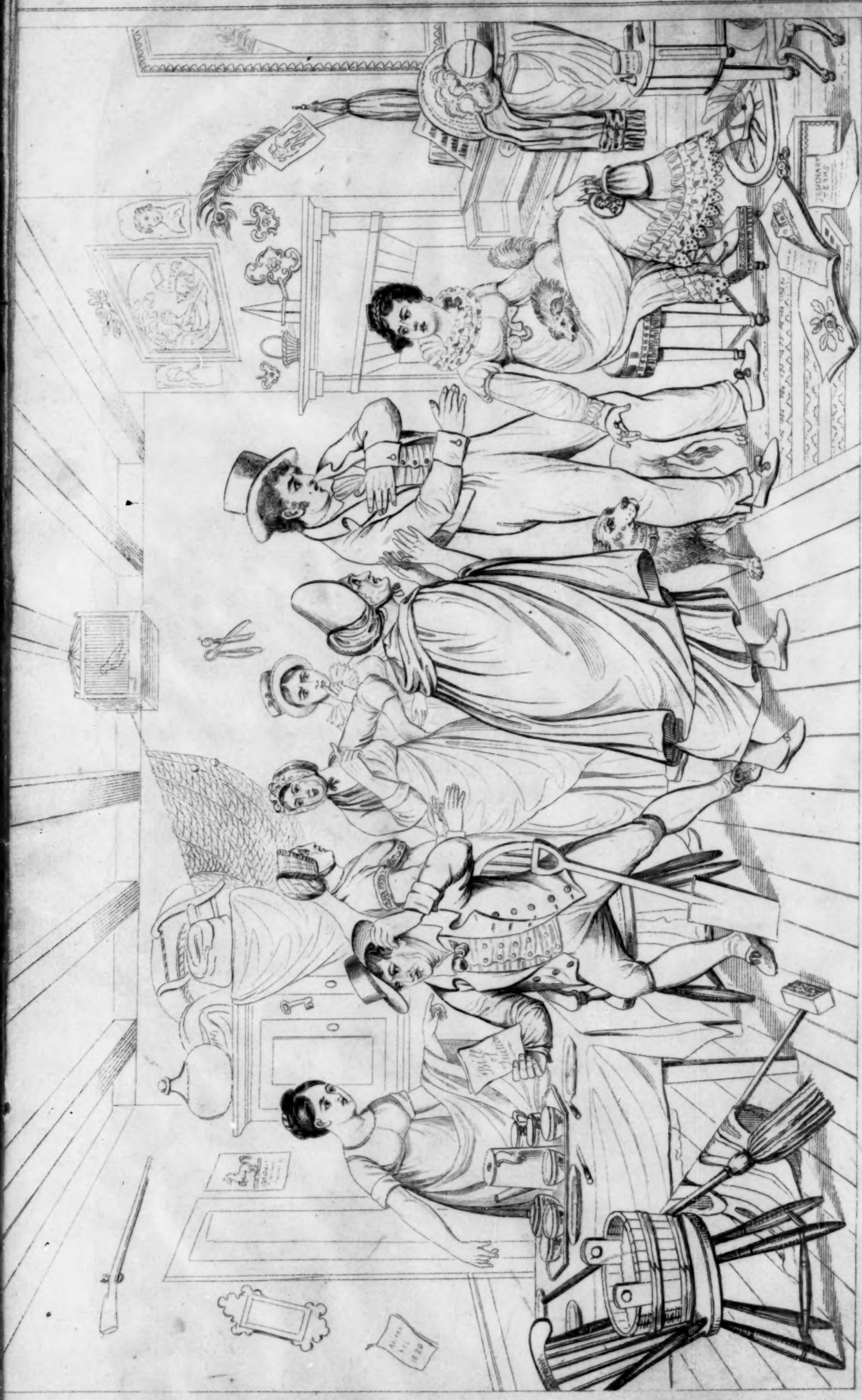
There is a very striking experiment on record, which was made by the late Mr. Gilbert, steward to the late duke of Bridgewater, on the effect of common salt upon apple-trees; and from my own knowledge of that gentleman, I have no hesitation in saying, that I believe the account may be strictly relied upon. This gentleman, who was not only steward to the duke, but also a large salt manufacturer, had an estate contiguous to his salt-pits at Windham in Cheshire, on which was an orchard planted with apple-trees, which, being grown old, constantly bore in the spring a profusion of blossoms, but never brought any fruit to perfection. To remedy this

defect, the tenant spread a quantity of rock-salt, bruised small, about each of the trees, at some distance from their stems; and ever since that period all the trees in that orchard have continued to be very productive, yielding abundance of fine, large, and well-flavoured apples.

A merchant at Liverpool, with whom I am well acquainted, has sent me an extract from a letter which he received from a very respectable correspondent, on the state of the fruits in the gardens at Droitwich, a town in Worcestershire, which is one of the most considerable places in Great Britain for the manufacture of common salt. It runs thus:

‘It is a remarkable circumstance, and worthy observation, that about the 15th of July, when the small fruit began to fail, and become scarce in the markets, in consequence of the great drought, the fruit in the gardens at Droitwich had not the least appearance of the want of rain, but, on the contrary, was in a state of the greatest possible luxuriance; and I am certain I speak within compass, when I say I could have gathered hundreds of clusters of currants that would have weighed half-a-pound each. The stems of the bunches were so long and numerous in the clusters, and the currants so large, that I remarked to my children who were with me, I was convinced their appearance, so different from every other place at the same time, arose from the presence of salt in the atmosphere, occasioned by the boiling of so many pans at the salt-works here.’

In addition to these facts, I am desirous of remarking, that the employment of common salt in agriculture and horticulture, is much more frequent in foreign countries than it is in these kingdoms; for I have the most unquestionable authority for stating, that ‘salt is employed in the cultivation of the vine and other fruit-trees on the borders of the Rhone, and that they are improved by this application.’ &c. &c.



RETURN FROM A BOARDING SCHOOL.

Drawn by J. Kimmel.

ART. VI.—Krimmel's Picture—*Return from Boarding School?*

THE engraving published in this number, is taken from a picture intended as the companion to the one presented in our last. The two viewed together, show the story which the artist meant to depict, and explain the moral that he wished to convey.

In the first is seen the young damsel in unadorned and rustic simplicity, but in the moment of departure for the boarding school, to which she is destined by the mistaken pride and fondness of her parents—for the purpose of acquiring the refinements of a city education. In the second plate we perceive the metamorphosis effected by the ill-advised experiment.

Decked in the most fashionable attire, and seated in the midst of luxurious articles of furniture, that appear to have been brought with her or for her from the town—her dress and figure form a striking contrast with the rusticity of the other members of the family;—while the indications of her newly acquired accomplishments, and *improved* taste—the piano, work-table, foot-stool, lap-dog—mirror, carpet—the mantle ornaments, and drawings over the fire-place, present an incongruous medley with the remaining furniture and decorations of the apartment. An incongruity however, not unfrequently to be seen in the parlours of our wealthy farmers.

Her foot on the overturned spinning-wheel, indicates her contempt for the morning occupations of former days, now laid aside in favour of the piano. And the miniature depending from her left hand, shows that the attractions of an epaulette and regimentals have been too powerful for her constancy, and explains why the plain dressed lover advancing to make the salutations of his first visit since her return, is scornfully repulsed by his fickle mistress.

The next most conspicuous figure is that of the father, reading with vexation and astonishment the various items

of the 'bill of tuition,' while his attention is vainly called to the neglected breakfast by the girl in waiting.

The back ground contains three figures in excellent *keeping*, with the more important personages of the scene. The mother points with great complacency to the drawings over the mantle piece, and the stupid admiration of the elder visitor, as well as the envy of the younger, are distinctly marked by the expression of their countenances.—The old grandame also, and her astonishment at the reception met with by the lover, and all the minor and even minute objects are perfectly consistent with the main design.

Mr. Krimmel's style of painting is the same in which Wilkie has gained a celebrity that places him among the first artists of the age; and that has given immortality of fame to Hogarth. Whenever the present insensibility to the interests of the fine arts shall have passed away, and the American public have learned to appreciate the labours of the pencil, Krimmel's name will rank high as an artist of great ingenuity of design, and truth and delicacy of delineation. And perhaps a future generation will pay honors to his talent that are now withheld from his living worth.

Some of the most remarkable among Mr. Krimmel's pictures are—'The Election ground,' 'Battle on Lake Champlain with portraits of the officers,' 'The Return from market,' all these in the possession of A. Lawson, Esq. 'Village politicians,' 'Quilting frolic,' 'Country wedding,' belonging to A. Murray, Esq.

'The Soldier's departure,' 'Blind man's buff' and the 'Cut finger' in possession of Messrs. Flandin and Winthrop, New York, and many others at his rooms in Spruce street above Seventh.

ADVERTISEMENT.

On the first Saturday of January next, will be published, by James Maxwell, at the S. E. corner of Fourth and Walnut streets, Philadelphia, the first number of

THE LITERARY GAZETTE;

OR,

JOURNAL OF CRITICISM, SCIENCE, AND THE ARTS,

BEING A THIRD SERIES OF THE ANALECTIC MAGAZINE.

Prospectus.

EXPERIENCE has demonstrated to the editors of the various magazines which have at different times appeared in the United States, that monthly journals are not popular with our reading public. There are perhaps strong reasons why they should not have received a greater share of favour from the community of late years. The establishment of the Edinburgh and Quarterly Reviews has caused a new æra in periodical literature. Criticism, as it appears in their pages, is quite a different science from what it formerly was. Its tone is more elevated, its judgments more profound and comprehensive. It does not content itself with an examination of the literary merits of a book, and the respective performances of the author and printer; but it enters into the wide field of speculation and argument, treating less upon books than upon their subject matter. And bringing to the consideration of the subject great masses of learning, and a surprising power of analysis. Its disquisitions are generally of great length, and often display both depth of thought and extent of research: but the public is frequently left altogether ignorant of the merits of the work, the title of which is prefixed to the particular article.

It is plain that the number of pages generally given in a monthly journal, is too limited to admit criticism of this nature without incurring one of two inconveniences. A full review of a particular subject must either exclude other articles, or be continued from one number to another at a risk of losing its hold upon public attention. In order to gratify all classes of readers

poscentes vario multum diversa palato,

it is necessary that essays should be brief, and reviews confined to a rapid survey of the subject criticised, and such partial extracts as may seem to indicate the author's object and style of execution. In spite, however, of all the efforts of its editor, a monthly magazine will sometimes be overloaded

with articles of too great weight for the slender vessel he is appointed to guide, and may sometimes contain an undue proportion of matter better fitted for a weekly or daily journal. For many purposes a monthly journal is too brief, for many others its periods of return are too remote. If it be the object of a literary work to make the public acquainted with the contents and merits of new books, with the progress of science and the arts, and with the additions that are received to the stock of useful knowledge, it is evidently better both for the public and the author of a new book or useful improvement, that the vehicle of information should be of frequent recurrence. If on the other hand it be desirable that a subject should be fully discussed, and the merits of some of the more voluminous works made known, the proper medium is a quarterly not a monthly journal.

Under an impression of the inefficacy, for most valuable purposes, of a monthly journal of literature and science, the present editors of the *Analectic Magazine* have determined to change its form and period of publication. It will appear after the present year, under the title of '*The Literary Gazette*' and will be published every *Saturday* in a *quarto* form. Each number will contain sixteen pages, and as one page of the *quarto* journal will be about equal to three of the present *octavo* pages of the *Analectic Magazine*, the editors will be enabled to give more than twice as much matter during the year. No addition, however, to the present annual subscription will be required.

The new series of the *Analectic Magazine* will be conducted very nearly upon the plan of the *London Literary Gazette*, an excellent journal which is deservedly popular in England. It appears to be the aim of the editors of that work to give in each number, some account of the most promising new publications immediately after, and sometimes before their appearance in public, interesting extracts from others, abridgments of the most valuable articles in foreign and domestic journals, proceedings of learned or useful societies, discoveries in science, improvements or inventions in the arts, essays on men and manners. Their success in the undertaking seems to show decisively the advantages of a weekly over a monthly journal. Without making any very lavish promises, the editors of the *American Literary Gazette*, think that they can assure the public of an intention to conform as nearly as possible to this plan. From the comparatively small number of books published in this coun-

try, a greater proportion of foreign selections will be made. It is intended however, to give an account of every new American book to which access can be had. It has heretofore been a subject of complaint that sufficient notice has not been taken of American literature in American Journals. This defect has arisen in some measure from the want of sufficient communication between the channels of Literature in this country. We have no literary metropolis, such as Paris, Edinburgh, or London. Books are published in every state of the union, but a great proportion of them never reach this city. It is manifestly the interest of authors and publishers that this state of things should be altered. They are solicited to send a copy of each new American publication to the editors of the *Literary Gazette*.

Essays upon the state of society and manners, upon the institutions, legislation, and history of the United States, the biography of distinguished men, anecdotes and documents throwing light upon our annals will be inserted whenever they can be obtained. Each number will contain an account of the proceedings of some scientific or useful society in Europe or America, and a notice of discoveries, inventions, and improvements. Under this head it is intended to give a brief account of every new patent that is granted, for which purpose patentees are solicited to furnish their specifications. Of the fine arts it is hoped there may be materials for occasional notices.

A part of each number will be appropriated to a department of *Law*, under which head it is intended to give an abstract of the most important legislative acts of congress and of the different states, when materials for the latter can be obtained, notices of the decisions in the different courts upon important points, and the most remarkable trials before the criminal and civil tribunals.

Each number will also contain an analytical account of the chief articles in the new numbers of the *Edinburgh Review* and the other principal British Journals, of the *French Journal Des Savans*, *Revue Encyclopedique*, &c., in the *North American Review* and other principal American periodical works.

The numerous periodical works of Great Britain are still found to be attractive to the American public, and the most popular of our journals are in a great measure filled with selections from them. The *Literary Gazette* will possess the advantage of presenting more copious selections, and at a

much earlier period than any monthly or quarterly publication. The following will be regularly received, by the publisher, for that purpose. Edinburgh Review, Quarterly Review, Journal of Science, Edinburgh Scientific Journal, Farmer's Magazine, Monthly Magazine, New Monthly Magazine, Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine, Constable's Edinburgh Magazine, Monthly Review, Eclectic Review, Repertory of Arts, Edinburgh Monthly Review, London Literary Gazette, Hunt's Weekly Examiner, besides the most celebrated French Journals.

The page of the projected series will be so comprehensive, that three times as much selected matter can be given as the Analectic Magazine or Select Reviews have ever heretofore contained, besides the original reviews and American Intelligence abovementioned. And an advantage will also be gained in the facility of presenting *entire*, and immediately after their importation, such smaller productions of the British press, as are usually republished and read with avidity in this country.

Upon the whole, the editors flatter themselves that they shall be able to conduct a journal which, by combining some of the advantages of a newspaper with those of a literary and scientific magazine, may attract public attention, and be the means of forwarding the march of general improvement. They will merely add that politics, in the general acceptance of the term, will be carefully excluded from its pages.

TERMS.

I. The Literary Gazette or Journal of Criticism, &c., will be published every Saturday morning.

II. Each number will contain 16 demi-quarto pages.

III. Price to subscribers 6 dollars per annum, payable on the first of June of each year. Single numbers will be sold for 12½ cents. The usual discount will be allowed to booksellers and agents.

IV. Subscribers who prefer being supplied monthly will, on request, receive four numbers together at the end of every month.

In consequence of the low price at which the Literary Gazette will be sold, in proportion to the quantity of reading which it will contain, the publisher requests distant subscribers to forward the first year's subscription in advance.

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